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A-League Round 8 Friday 29th Nov - Sunday 1st Dec 2013

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TV HEAVEN WITH SANTO, SAM & ED

STARS IN THEIR EYES!

Construction workers killed after World Cup stadium collapse

Part of the stadium due to host the opening match of the 2014 FIFA World Cup has collapsed, killing two construction workers at the site.

The roof at the Arena de Sao Paulo, in the Itaquerao district of the city, suffered damage following an accident on Wednesday which involved a crane working on the construction.

According to a statement from Brazilian club Corinthians and building firm Odebrecht, the crane, designed to put the final piece of the metal roof structure in place, collapsed and caused the fall of part of the east building.

It read: "Odebrecht Infraestrutura and Sport Club Corinthians Paulista regret to inform you that in the early afternoon an accident in the work of Arena Corinthians caused the death of two workers - Fabio Luiz Pereira, 42, driver/operator of the company BHM Munck, and Ronaldo Oliveira dos Santos, 44, assembler of Conecta company.

"Shortly before 1pm, the crane that hoisted the last module of the structure of the metal roof of the stadium collapsed causing the fall of the part of the circulation area of the east building - partially hitting the LED facade.

"The structure of the grandstand was not compromised. It was the 38th time this type of procedure happened in the place and a part with the same proportions was installed just over a week in the southern sector of the stadium.

"Firemen are working in the place. At the moment, all efforts are focused to provide full assistance to the families of the victims."

FIFA also expressed their condolences, releasing a statement of their own shortly after the incident.

It read: "FIFA and the LOC have learnt of the death of workers at the Corinthians Arena site in Sao Paulo with great sadness. We wish to send our heartfelt condolences to the family of the workers who tragically died today.

"The safety of workers is the top priority for FIFA, the LOC, the federal government. We know the safety of all workers has always been paramount for all the construction companies contracted to build the 12 FIFA World Cup stadiums.

"The local authorities will fully investigate the reasons behind such a tragic accident.

"We are in no position to comment further at this stage, as we are awaiting further details from the authorities. As soon as FIFA receives further information, we will provide an update."

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, meanwhile, added via his Twitter account: "I'm deeply saddened by the tragic death of workers @ Corinthians arena today. Our heartfelt (sic) condolences are with the families."

The venue had been chosen to host the first game of the showpiece tournament on June 12, with FIFA having set a strict deadline of the end of December for all venues to be completed.

A total of six games are due to be played at the stadium, which was reported to be 94 per cent complete earlier this month.

Aussies acclaimed at AFC Awards Night

Australian match officials Ben Williams and Allyson Flynn have been rewarded for their officiating over the past 12 months by taking out prestigious awards at the AFC Annual Awards in Kuala Lumpur.

Williams was named AFC Referee of the Year and Flynn was crowned AFC Women's Assistant Referee of the Year at the glittering ceremony.

The referee awards recognise match officials who have flown the Asian flag high and upheld the spirit of fair play during the past twelve months. Their accolades once again demonstrate the high regard in which Australian referees are held throughout Asia.

Williams, who is one of Australia's most respected referees having taken charge of well over 100 Hyundai A-League matches, saw off the challenge of last year's winner Yuichi Nishimura from Japan and Bahrain's Nawaf Abdulla to claim the individual accolade.

"This is a fantastic recognition to be amongst the elites of Asian referees by becoming the best referee of Asia," said Williams after receiving his award.

"I am very, very humbled and honoured with this award and it will further spur me to continue working for the beautiful game of football.

"There are several top referees in Asia and it's really nice that you are recognised as the best.

"I am sure this is a great achievement not only for me but for the whole of Australian football. I advise youngsters to keep being humble and continue learning if they see great future and excitement in this profession."

ACT officials Ben Williams and Allyson Flynn have won the AFC top gongs

Flynn claimed the female individual accolade ahead of compatriot Sarah Ho, the 2011 recipient, and Naomi Teshirogi of Japan. The 31-year-old received the award in recognition of her sterling displays officiating at the 2013 AFC U-19 Women's Championship finals in China as well as the qualifiers for next year's AFC U-16 Women's Championship.

"I'm so happy to win this award. To me, this award also belongs to Sarah Ho, a fellow Australian nominee, because she's also an exceptional match official and we always travel, train and work together," said Flynn.

"I'm sure this award will be good for refereeing in Australia and will inspire Australians to play the game and to be involved in refereeing. This award will promote not only the game but also refereeing in our nation."

Allyson and Sarah Ho have also been selected for the Men's AFC Elite Assistant Referees panel and will be considered for AFC Cup appointments in 2014. They are the first female match officials to be selected on a referee's panel for men's football in the AFC.

Football participation reaches 1.96 million Australians

The latest audit of football participation in Australia shows that 1.96 million Australians are actively involved in the game as a player, coach or match official.

The participation number is a 13% increase on a previous survey in 2010, which tallied 1.7 million people involved with the game.

FFA CEO David Gallop said the latest figures shows that football is growing strongly at the community level and providing a vibrant base for the Hyundai A-League and Australia's national teams.

"The game's simple beauty and reliance on skill rather than collisions makes it a natural choice for so many people in so many places," said Gallop.

"It's the popular game for boys, girls, old and young, who are playing outdoor, indoor, in parks and fields and in clubs and schools. Football is flourishing across the Australian community and we're delighted."

The gemba Active Sports Participation study (gASP), which surveys the Australian population between the age of 5 and 75, reveals that 960,000 people participate in organised football competitions, while another 1 million play in social, recreational and semi-organised ways.

"The survey result confirms that football retains its status as the no.1 team participation sport in Australia," said Gallop.

"Football has always had a huge playing base, but now the popularity is spilling over to the attendances, TV ratings and digital audiences for the Hyundai A-League and the Socceroos.

"Today, the powerful idea that football could become Australia's biggest and most popular sport overall is no longer just a dream. It's starting to happen in significant steps forward."

Participation Numbers

Soccer	489,100
AFL	241,500
Indoor Soccer	194,200
Rugby League	104,100
Rugby Union	101,000

Statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Dec 2012

Mariners committed to the Coast

Central Coast Mariners wish to refute speculation in this morning's media suggesting the Club is seeking to relocate to the North Sydney region in the coming years.

The Club's owners – including majority shareholder Mr Michael Charlesworth – have injected over $15 million into the Club as well as the Club's Tuggerah-based Centre of Excellence *(pictured)* over the past year, and as such the Central Coast will remain the home of the reigning Hyundai A-League Champions.

Indeed, Mr Charlesworth is investing in the Club's Centre of Excellence with the aim of Central Coast being home to the premier sports training facility in the country, and one day being the official training base of Australia's men's and women's national football teams.

While the Mariners' commitment to the Coast is unwavering, a recent analysis of the Club's Membership base highlighted that approximately 20 per cent of the Club's Members currently reside in Sydney's northern suburbs. As such, the Club already views Sydney's northern suburbs as an extension of Mariner territory, and is working closely with the Northern Suburbs Football Association (NSFA) to ensure the players, officials, volunteers, and supporters of their region have a Hyundai A-League team to call their own.

Central Coast Mariners will play its Hyundai A-League 2013/14 round 6 match against Wellington Phoenix at North Sydney Oval on Thursday 19 December. The Club wishes to engage with more supporters from Sydney's northern suburbs in order to encourage them to routinely make the short trip up the M1 Motorway to watch the Mariners in action.

The Club will study the off-field success of its game against Wellington Phoenix in late 2013 and early 2014, before making any decision or commitment to play further matches at North Sydney

27 more cities keen to join Asian Cup party

Twenty-seven cities in every state and territory have been short-listed as potential pre-competition training camps for Australia's biggest ever football tournament, AFC Asian Cup Australia 2015.

The enthusiasm generated around the nation means Asia's top 16 teams will have a wealth of locations to choose from when they prepare for Asia's biggest sporting event.

Venues putting their hands up to be part of Australia's Asian Cup party include nine in NSW, eight in Victoria, three in both Queensland and South Australia and one each in WA, Tasmania, the ACT and the Northern Territory.

They now become candidates to host visiting national teams as they acclimatise and train in Australia before competing in the five tournament host cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Canberra and Newcastle.

The pre-tournament host candidates, culled from an initial list of more than 50 nominations, include capital cities Perth, Adelaide, Darwin and Canberra, but most are regional centres. Sites selected include high quality football facilities close to international standard hotels.

They include Wollongong, Coffs Harbour, Albury and Cessnock in NSW, Ballarat, Shepparton, La Trobe and the Surf Coast in Victoria, Cairns, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast in Queensland, and Launceston in Tasmania.

Local Organising Committee (LOC) Chief Executive Officer Michael Brown said the LOC would prepare an information brochure highlighting the venues that would be sent to all participating teams to consider as part of their preparations for the tournament.

"The response has been magnificent, and shows Australians are getting behind the Asian Cup in a big way," Mr Brown said.

"We aim to put on a world class event and it's clear Australians are ready to provide a world class welcome.

"I am sure if the visiting teams choose to base themselves at one of these great locations the whole region will adopt them as their second team.

"We can all still support our own Socceroos, as well as taking another nation under our wing.

"Australians are famous the world over for the warmth of our welcome, and hosting these teams will be an important part of our mission to celebrate Asia's rich football culture."

More than 2.5 million Australians have Asian heritage and the Asian Cup is a great chance for communities to celebrate their ancestry.

Twelve nations have already qualified for AFC Asian Cup 2015 – Australia as hosts, defending champions Japan, South Korea and North Korea, along with the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iran, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Uzbekistan.

A further four spots are at stake, one in the AFC Challenge Cup and a further three in the final round of qualifying matches next March.

The final 16 teams will take part in a 23-day festival of football which the Socceroos will kick off on January 9, 2015, in Melbourne, with the final set for Sydney's Stadium Australia on January 31, 2015.

The tournament is being jointly funded by the Australian Government and the NSW, Victorian, Queensland and ACT Governments.

The Short List

The final list of candidates for Asian Cup 2015 pre-competition training camps is:

ACT:
Australian Institute of Sport

NSW:
Lavington Sports Ground, Albury
Cessnock Sports Ground
Coffs Harbour International
Wollongong Stadium
Campbelltown Sports Stadium
Macquarie University
Marconi Stadium
Cromer Park
Valentine Sports Park

NT:
Darwin Football Stadium

QLD:
Stockland Stdm, Sunshine Coast
Barlow Park, Cairns
Bond University, Gold Coast

SA:
Adelaide Shores Football Precinct
Hindmarsh Stadium
Marden Sports Complex

TAS:
Aurora Stadium, Launceston

VIC:
Morshead Park, Ballarat
Surf Coast Pavillion
John McEwan Res, Shepparton
La Trobe City Stadium, La Trobe
Mazenod College, Mulgrave,
Kingston Heath Soccer Club,
George Andrews, Dandenong,
Epping Stadium, Whittlesea,

WA:
NIB Stadium, Perth

Victory returns to Asian Champions League

Melbourne Victory will return to Champions League football for the first time since 2011, following an Asian Football Confederation (AFC) executive committee meeting on Wednesday, in which the number of participating teams for the 2014 event was confirmed.

Australia has secured two direct entry spots, plus one additional qualifying spot.

Following its third place finish in last year's Hyundai A-League, Melbourne Victory has now earned the right to play in the qualification stage in early 2014 in order to progress to the competition's group stages.

Head Coach Kevin Muscat said he was thrilled with the news.

"This club has made no secret of its ambitions to play consistently in Asia and succeed in that competition," Muscat said.

"To be returning to the ACL after a few years' absence is a very exciting prospect, not only for myself as coach, but also for the players who will be keen to show what they can do on Asia's biggest stage."

Melbourne Victory CEO Ian Robson said the AFC Champions League was a competition the club had planned for and is excited to be participating in.

"As part of our long term strategy, having an impact in Asia will be a big part of the future success of this club and we are taking this competition extremely seriously," Mr Robson said.

"First things first, we have to get past this qualification period, but it's certainly no secret that our expectation is for Kevin and the team to qualify for the group stages and from there, we really want to go deep into the competition.

"We have no doubt our fans will get behind us, as the AFC Champions League is now such a big event in this part of the world, with more than 30 million people across Asia tuning in to watch this year's final alone. Those kind of numbers give us great motivation to succeed as we look to spread the Melbourne Victory brand throughout our region and beyond."

The location, date and opponents for the qualifying games will be confirmed following the AFC Champions League draw on December 10 in Kuala Lumpur.

Taggart re-signs with Jets

Newcastle Jets are pleased to announce the re-signing of in-form striker Adam Taggart to a one-year contract extension.

The 20-year-old has taken the Australian game by storm in recent weeks as the competition's leading goal scorer with six goals.

Fresh off his incredible hat-trick against the Melbourne Heart last Sunday, Taggart says he is thrilled to commit to the Club for another season.

"It's fantastic to re-sign at a great club like Newcastle," Taggart said.

"We are all going in the right direction here, so it's an exciting time and I'm really pleased.

"We've been talking for quite a while and it's great that we've come to an agreement."

Taggart reserves special praise for the Jets' supporters, crediting them for playing a crucial role in his re-signing.

"A massive thing for me was just coming off the field last week and having that standing ovation," Taggart added.

"That made me really feel a massive part of Newcastle in me, so the deal was definitely something I couldn't say no to.

"The thought in my head was that it would be great to experience that week-in and week-out now, so the fans played a massive part in me re-signing."

Taggart also thanked the entire Jets organisation for their support and loyalty since linking with the Club in 2012.

"The Club has been magnificent since I've come here," he said.

"They've shown the belief in me.

"I think throughout my whole time here I've been made to feel very welcome.

"And the ongoing talks I've had with the Club have been nothing, but absolute support.

"I think for all us young players they just want the best for us and to help us make a great career just as much as we do."

Jets CEO Robbie Middleby says the re-signing of Taggart is a boost for the Club.

"We are obviously really excited to re-sign Adam and to secure his future at the Club, we believe he is one of the most promising talents in the country," Middleby said.

"It has been wonderful to see Adam's development during his time at the Jets and we look forward to that continuing next season."

GOAL! WEEKLY

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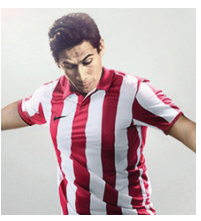
Ganso

Ibrahimovic

THIS IS FOOTBALL THIS IS FOOTBALL

Neymar

Thiago Silva

AUSTRALIA'S 2013 NUMBER ONE NIKE TEAM WEAR SUPPLIER

SCOREBOARD

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Brisbane Roar	7	5	0	2	14	5	9	15
2 Western Sydney Wanderers	7	4	2	1	9	6	3	14
3 Newcastle Jets	7	3	3	1	9	7	2	12
4 Sydney FC	7	4	0	3	9	10	-1	12
5 Melbourne Victory	7	3	2	2	11	8	3	11
6 Central Coast Mariners	6	2	3	1	8	7	1	9
7 Perth Glory	7	2	3	2	6	7	-1	9
8 Adelaide United	7	1	2	4	8	12	-4	5
9 Wellington Phoenix	6	0	3	3	6	9	-3	3
10 Melbourne Heart	7	0	2	5	3	12	-9	2

THIS WEEK

Round 8	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Nov 29	Central Coast Mariners v Melbourne Victory	Bluetongue Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sat Nov 30	Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory	Suncorp Stadium	4:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Nov 30	Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets	Allianz Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Dec 1	Wellington Phoenix v West Sydney Wanderers	Westpac Stadium	5:00 PM	3:00 PM
Sun Dec 1	Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United	AAMI Park	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

NEXT WEEK

Round 9	Fixture	Venue	Local	AEDT
Fri Dec 6	Adelaide United v Brisbane Roar	Hindmarsh Stadium	7:00 PM	7:30 PM
Fri Dec 6	Perth Glory v Wellington Phoenix	NIB stadium	6:45 PM	9:45 PM
Sat Dec 7	West Sydney Wanderers v Melbourne Heart	Parramatta Stadium	5:30 PM	5:30 PM
Sat Dec 7	Central Coast Mariners v Sydney FC	Bluetongue Stadium	7:30 PM	7:30 PM
Sun Dec 8	Melbourne Victory v Newcastle Jets	AAMI Park	5:00 PM	5:00 PM

ROUND SEVEN

Newcastle Jets 3
(Taggart 38, 55, 62)
Melbourne Heart 1
(Migliorini 58)
Crowd: 12,806 at Hunter Stadium

Sydney FC 2
(Garcia 35, Despotovic 90+)
Wellington Phoenix 1
(Cunningham 90+)
Crowd: 14,503 @ Allianz Stadium

Brisbane Roar 3
(Berisha 5, Franjic 19, Yeboah 90)
Western Sydney Wanderers 1
(Santalab 28)
Crowd: 19,066 @ Suncorp Stadium

Perth Glory 1 (Maclaren 25')
Central Coast Mariners 2
(McGlinchey 35', Duke 90+4')
Crowd: 8,923 at nib Stadium, East Perth

Melbourne Victory 3
Adelaide United 0
crowd: 20,000 @ Etihad Stadium

TOP GOAL SCORERS

06
Adam Taggart (Jets)
05
James Troisi (Victory)
04
Henrique (Roar
03
Alessandro Del Piero (SFC)
Matthew Smith (Roar)
Marcos Flores (Mariners)
Jeronimo Neumann (Adelaide Utd)
Ryo Nagai (Glory)
Archie Thompson (Victory)
02
Tomi Juric (Wanderers)
David Williams (Heart)
Mitchell Duke (Mariners)
Fabio Farriera (Adelaide)
Andrew Durante (Phoenix)
Jeremy Brockie (Phoenix)
Joel Chianese (Sydney FC)

Although on the losing end of Perth Glory's 2-1 defeat to the Mariners, Jamie Maclaren continues to show his prowess in front of goals.

A-LEAGUE TEAM OF THE WEEK Round 6

Follow Steven Talevski on twitter @steventalevski.

Compiled by Steven Talevski

Man of the moment: Newcastle's Adam Taggart

What a drama filled weekend of football round seven saw with 17 goals, two red cards and the season's first hat-trick.
It all kicked off with the Wanderers conceding three goals in a match for the first time allowing the Roar to go top of the table while wins to Sydney FC and the Jets saw them continue their rise up the table. Rookie coaches Phil Moss and Kevin Muscat also picked up victories despite both receiving hiccups throughout their games while the pressure mounts on Wellington and Heart who are still looking for their first wins. Here is our team of the week:

GK: Nathan Coe – He was the man of the moment on Saturday night as his saved penalty kept the Victory in the lead against Adelaide. The saved penalty then led to the Victory going to the other side of the field and finding their second goal of the game.

RB: Leigh Broxham – With Mark Milligan returning from international duty, Broxham was moved to right back in favour over Jason Geria. Broxham did not disappoint as he helped the ten men Victory to the only clean sheet on the weekend.

CB: Matt Smith – The score-line flattered the Roar on the weekend as the Wanderers were dominant for 70 minutes or so in the game. Smith's defensive performance during that time allowed for the Roar to only concede the sole goal as the defence laid the foundations for Brisbane to move on top of the table courtesy of the three points.

CB: Sebastian Ryall – The youngster continues to impress as the Sky Blues move up the table. After conceding a goal from a set piece, it seemed the Phoenix were the likely team to find a winner against ten men Sydney. However Ryall's run up the field late in injury time was a risk that paid off as he played in new signing Ranko Despotovic for the winner.

LB: Scott Jamieson – Unfortunately it ended sourly for Jamieson coming off with a serious Achilles injury. However up to that moment the full back was fantastic, with his performance highlighted by the great long ball he played into Jamie Maclaren for the games opener.

RM: Matt McKay – Returning from Socceroos duty, McKay was as influential as ever in the Roar midfield. McKay did not misplace many passes with his assist for Kwame Yeboah the pick of the bunch.

CM: Ruben Zadkovich – One of the reasons the Jets have had a resurgence as of late is the midfield combination of Zadkovich along with youngsters Ben Kantarovski and Josh Brillante. Zadkovich had a terrific game on the weekend pulling the string in between the midfield and attack and also had two assists next to his name.

LM: Michael McGlinchey – Another player returning from international duty, McGlinchey was at his best as usual for the Mariners and found their equaliser late in the first half as Central Coast went on to pick up their first win under Phil Moss.

RF: Kosta Barbarouses – One of two New Zealand internationals in the Team of the Week, Barbarouses was the Victory's biggest threat in attack by scoring one and setting up another.

CF: Besart Berisha – Back from injury, Berisha was the central attacking figure that the Roar had missed in recent weeks as he showed just how much of an impact he has in the team by scoring the game's opener.
LF: Adam Taggart – If scoring a hat-trick of stunning goals does not get you a spot in any team of the week, I do not know what does. A superb game from the young Socceroo who is now the A-Leagues top goal-scorer.

Coach: Kevin Muscat – Being a favourite son of the club does not make the task any easier as Muscat's start of his head coaching career has hit some minor bumps. It looked like it may have hit another on the weekend after Adrian Leijer picked up a red card with the inform James Troisi subsequently substituted. However Muscat's decision to substitute the Socceroos contender paid off as the Victory went on to pick up the three nil win.

Star Man: Adam Taggart – Six goals in three weeks has catapulted Taggart to the top of the goal-scoring charts. Taggart became the first player to score a hat-trick this season and is now in Socceroos call up contention with some fantastic form. If Taggart continues finding the back of the net he may well be receiving a phone from Ange Postecogolou soon.

Photos: ELLIE PARRY / BRFC

Brisbane Breaks Wanderers Hoodoo

Brisbane Roar 3

Western Sydney 1

Match Details

Brisbane Roar 3 (Besart Berisha 5', Ivan Franjic 19', Kwame Yeboah 90+1')
Western Sydney Wanderers 1 (Brendan Santalab 28')
Suncorp Stadium, Brisbane
Referee: Strebre Delovski
Crowd: 19,066

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael Theo (Gk), 2. Matthew Smith (C), 5. Ivan Franjic, 7. Besart Berisha (29.Kwame Yeboah 63'), 10. Henrique (23.Dimitri Petratos 70'), 13. Jade North, 17. Matt Mckay, 18. Luke Brattan, 19. Jack Hingert (15.James Donachie 84'), 22. Thomas Broich, 26. Corey Brown

Substitutes Not Used: 14.Diogo FerreiRa, 20.Matthew Acton (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Nil
Red Cards: Nil

Western Sydney Wanderers: 1. Ante Covic (Gk), 2. Shannon Cole (12.Tahj Minniecon 69'), 3. Adam D'apuzzo, 4. Nikolai Topor-Stanley (C), 6.Jerome Polenz, 8.Mateo Poljak, 10.Aaron Mooy, 11.Brendon Santalab (22. Dean Heffernan 83'), 13.Matthew Spiranovic, 19.Mark Bridge, 21.Shinji Ono (7.Labinot Haliti 42')

Substitutes Not Used: 18.Iacopo La Rocca, 20.Jerrad Tyson (Gk)
Yellow Cards: Adam D'apuzzo 51'
Red Cards: Nil

By Jarrod Ellis

Friday night's match between Brisbane and Western Sydney proved to be a blockbuster, the Roar finished 3-1 to the good and reclaimed top-spot, but the result was in doubt until a superb injury time strike from Kwame Yeboah.

The top of the table clash had promised much, and it delivered. Stunning strikes, defensive lapses, great saves and two sides more than willing to go for one another's throat.

The match also marked a return to action for Besart Berisha, the Roar striker having been absent since round two. He wasted no time displaying his intent, surging towards the Wanderers area and unleashing a shot at goal within the first minute.

If that was an early warning it proved of no benefit to the Wanderers as Berisha put Brisbane into the lead in only the 5th minute of the match.

It was an excellent individual effort from the Albanian. Dismissing the attentions of Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Matthew Spiranovic as he made his way into the box, his first shot was blocked but the rebound fell within easy reach and Covic could only look on as the ball bounced into the net.

Brisbane was clearly up for this game and by nineteen minutes in they had doubled their lead.

The second goal arrived through an excellent strike from Ivan Franjic. Having returned from international duties the Socceroo displayed his undoubted quality, a pass from Henrique lead to pop and volley from Franjic, the ball finishing nestled in the bottom left hand corner of the net.

Despite having never conceded inside the opening twenty-minutes of an A-League match the Wanderers were now down 2-0.

Brendon Santalab had an excellent chance to peg one back in the 23rd minute, an in-swinging cross from the left evaded Jade North and fell for Santalab, but he was unable to connect properly and the ball ended up well wide of Michael Theo's goal.

After conceding two goals from careless mistakes at the back last week the Roar would have been expected to eliminate such errors next time out. However that wasn't to be the case as North passed the ball straight to Mark Bridge who happily played in Brendon Santalab, his chipped finish easily evading Theo.

Wanderers could have been level only four minutes later, Santalab rose for a free header nine-yards out but was unable to even force a save from Theo, the ball skidding wide.

Shinji Ono departed shortly before the half due to injury but despite his absence it was the visitors who finished the stronger.

After a first half packed with goal mouth action the second stanza started slowly as both sides looked to tighten up at the back.

The visitors again went close to an equaliser in the 68th minute, a bicycle kick from Shannon Cole flashed wide seconds after a header from Santalab had ricocheted off the bar.

Nine minutes from time the equaliser looked to have arrived but Brisbane rode their luck, North had to clear off the line after a goal mouth scramble ended in another Santalab shot.

Wanderers had done enough to leave the River City with a point but their inability to capitalise on their chances ultimately came back to bite them when Kwame Yeboah performed some late game heroics.

Having collected a Matt McKay pass wide on the left of the Wanderers half the Roar youngster dribbled forward at pace into the box, cutting the ball back onto his right before unleashing a powerful rising shot into the far corner of the net.

That goal sealed an impressive result for the home side but Tony Popovic was quick to claim his side deserved better.

"We can't hide away from the fact that the first 20 minutes were very poor," he said. "They've got some

Besart Berisha hit the target upon returning from injury

Match Stats

34	Tackles	33
11	Total Shots	15
468	Total Passes	479
47.6%	Possession	52.4%
1	Corners	8
2	Offsides	3
13	Fouls committed	15

Man of the Match
Luke Brattan (Roar)

Brisbane Roar players congratulate youngster Kwame Yeboah on his wonderful goal.

Photos: GEOFF JONES

SFC's winning streak KO's Phoenix

Sydney FC

2

Wellington Phoenix

1

Match Details

Sydney FC 2
(Garcia 34', Despotovic 90'+4')
Wellington Phoenix 1
(Cunningham 90')
Ground: Allianz Stadium
Crowd: 14,503
Referee: Jarred Gillet

Sydney FC: 20. V.Janjetovic, 2. S.Ryall, 6. N.Petkovic, 7. B.Emerton, 8. P.Bojic 10. A. Del Piero (80' T.McFlynn), 11. R.Garcia, 16. J.Chianese (76' M.Jurman), 19. N.Carle, 22. A.Abbas, 27. C.Naumoff (67' R.Despotovic).

Unused Subs: 1. I.Necevski, 21. Y.Yau
Yellow Cards: 6' P.Bojic, 50' N.Carle.
Red Cards: 73' P.Bojic.

Wellington Phoenix FC: 1. G.Moss, 2. E.Muscat, 3. R.Caira (72' A.Riera), 10. S.Huysegems (68' K.Cunningham), 11. J.Brockie, 15. J.Hicks (58' P.Ifill), 16.L.Fenton, 17. Vince Lia, 18. B.Sigmund, 21. C.Hernandez, 22. A.Durante. P.Retre.

Unused Subs: 20. L.Italiano, 7. L.Bertos, 9. K.Cunningham.
Yellow Cards: 27' E.Muscat

By Bryson Ferriera

Sydney FC fans have a new cult hero after debutant Ranko Despotovic scored a dramatic winner in his sides 2-1 against Wellington Phoenix on Saturday night.

Debutant Despotovic, who arrived in the country less than a week ago, stepped up in the final minute of added on time to snatch victory for the Sky Blues.

The Serbians goal was a brilliant finish to a mouth watering final 15 minutes that saw Pedj Bojic sent off after a second yellow, and a 90th minute equalizer from Costa Rican, Kenny Cunningham.

Sydney FC had named an unchanged starting line-up from the one that took three points against the Melbourne Heart last week, with the Serbian Despotovic named on the bench alongside the returning Ivan Necevski.

Phoenix had their full contingent of New Zealand players back after their World Cup qualifying disappointment in midweek.

The last gasp victory was the Sky Blues third on the trot and leaves Frank Farina's men fourth on the table, one win from table toppers, Brisbane Roar.

The Sky Blues were under pressure early as the Phoenix peppered the box with crosses from the right channel.

Seb Ryall and Vedran Janjetovic were forced to clear the ball on more than one occasion, while Pedj Bojic picked up an early yellow card for a dangerous sliding tackle, a challenge that eventually contributed to his sending off.

The Sky Blues then began to control possession and in the 14th minute Alessandro Del Piero's shot on the turn sailed over the crossbar.

Joel Chianese also forced a diving save from Glen Moss following a low whipped cross.

Despite being seemingly in control of the game, Sydney FC were lucky not to concede after Jeremy Brockie broke behind the Sky Blues line.

The Kiwi international's chance went begging however, as a bobble forced him to sky the effort over the bar, a chance the Phoenix rued just a minute later.

Veteran Brett Emerton picked up the ball just beyond the centre circle and fired a cross-field pass to Garcia on the left.

The front man took a touch and unleashed a rasping drive from the edge of the area that cannoned in off the underside of the crossbar, an early contender for goal of the season.

The Sky Blues then began the second half as they finished the first, in control.

Pedj Bojic was the first to test the Phoenix keeper as his dipping shot from distance was tipped over the bar.

Phoenix keeper Glen Moss also had to dive low to his right to hold onto a Nick Carle drive.

The Sydney fans were then introduced to their new acquisition in the 67th minute, as the Serbian international Despotovic came on for youngster, Chris Naumoff.

From that point on the drama began, as Pedj Bojic received his marching orders after a second yellow card following a challenge on Kenny Cunningham.

The Phoenix began to push numbers forward in a bid to take advantage of the extra man, while defender Matt Jurman was introduced by Frank Farina to shore up the home side's defensive line.

It proved a heart-renching final 10 minutes for the home crowd, as the Phoenix continued to pepper the Sydney FC goal.

A desperate challenge by Goal Weekly's man-of-the-match Seb Ryall, kept out Carlos Hernandez in the 83rd minute

Vedran Janjetovic then saved Sydney FC in the 88th minute making a point blank block at his near post from Cunningham's volley, before the same striker saw a goal ruled out for offside.

Sydney FC's resilience was finally thwarted in the 90th minute however, as Carlos Hernandez' whipped in a corner towards the six yard line, where Kenny Cunningham perfectly placed his skillful volley.

That was not the end of the drama however, as Sydney broke forward after Terry McFlynn picked the ball up on the centre circle.

Seb Ryall then shrugged off his marker and squared the ball to new man Despotovic, who slotted the cross into the far corner to send the stadium into raptures.

The Serbian now has as many goals for Sydney FC as he had for Urawa Red Diamonds, his previous team in which he made 25 appearances.

The win leaves Sydney in fourth place, equal on points with next this weekends opponents, the Newcastle Jets.

The Phoenix however, remain winless after three draws and three losses, but should improve after a grueling early season schedule.

With so much quality in their team, the Sky Blues are beginning to get the results we all know they are capable of, especially since the best teams find a way to win without playing their best football.

If anything Sydney FC should get better despite looking for their fourth successive win this weekend.

Match Stats		
14	Tackles	14
15	Total Shots	20
328	Total Passes	419
43.5%	Possession	56.5%
3	Corners	12
4	Offsides	3
14	Fouls committed	16

Man of the Match
Sebastian Ryall (SFC)

Better late than never: Sydney FC's continue on their winning ways after Serbian striker Ranko Despotovic scores on debut

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10-man Victory ease over Reds

Melbourne Victory

3

Adelaide United

0

Match Details

Melbourne Victory 3
(Barbarouses, Thompson, Nichols)
Adelaide United 0
Etihad Stadium
Crowd: 20,000

Melbourne Victory:
Coe (Gk), Contreras, Traore, Milligan (C), Broxham, Barbarouses, Thompson, Troisi, Nichols, Mahazi, Leijer

Yellow Cards: Leijer, Vontreras, Broxham, Milligan, Ansell

Red Cards: Leijer

Subs:
Thomas, Ansell, Finkler, Pain, Galloway

Adelaide United:
Galekovic (Gk) (C), Boogaard, Malik, Cassio, Jeronimo, Isaias, Cirio, Carrusca, Zullo, Elrich, Ferreira.

Yellow Cards: Elrich, Zullo

Subs:
Hall, Djite, Lustica, Mabil, Elsey

By Andrew Bishara

After two consecutive defeats, 10-men Melbourne Victory recorded an impressive 3-0 over Adelaide United in a drama-fuelled game.

The Victory had former captain Adrian Leijer sent off late in the first half, after it took the lead through Kosta Barbarouses. But second-half goals by Archie Thompson and Mitch Nichols secured the win.

The game could have gone a different way, had Victory 'keeper Nathan Coe not saved Cirio's lame penalty effort, after Pablo Contreras brought down Jeronimo Neumann.

Kevin Muscat welcomed back Captain Mark Milligan and Barbarouses from international duty midweek, while Adelaide Josep Gombau had Nigel Boogaard, Bruce Djite and Michael Zullo back in the squad.

This was the second time that the old rivals faced off this season, following the pulsating 2-2 draw back in round two. That night, Victory came back from two-nil down to draw level, with James Troisi scoring in the 95th minute.

It was Troisi who set-up the Victory opener, 15 minutes in, when the midfielder broke the offside trap to laid the ball on for Barbarouses to simply tap it in.

Just before the half-and-hour mark, the home side could have doubled their lead when Thompson missed a sitter, after pushing the ball just wide off the post after a superb low-cross from Barbarouses.

The home side looked in complete control until Leijer received his second yellow after bringing down Cirio, 10 minutes after cleaning up Marcelo Carrusca. The decision brought the game into a farce, as confusion reign.

Muscat brought on Nick Ansell to sure up the backline, but Victory had not yet made its substitution. Referee Ben Williams sent Ansell back off the pitch, but he was yellow carded when he officially came on for Troisi.

Archie Thompson scores for Victory, much to the disgust of Adelaide United keeper Eugene Galekovic.

The substituted Troisi was livid at his departure, and headed straight down the tunnel, before being called back by Muscat, who demanded that he returned to the bench.

As the second-half began, Adelaide looked to control possession, with the Victory content to play on the counter.

Twenty minutes in though, the visitors were awarded a controversial penalty, when marquee-signing Contreras looked to have brought down Neumann in the box, despite minimal contact.

However, Cirio's poor effort saw Coe comfortably save the penalty.

Sensing it dodged a bullet; the Victory doubled its advantage a minute later when Nichols found Thompson alone in the box, after some build-up play from Leigh Broxham and Barbarouses.

Thompson expertly finished the move with aplomb to wield away in celebration.

The game was all but over in the 76th minute when Nichols took advantage of a long-ball from Coe.

Running onto the punt, Nichols' deft touch saw the midfielder skip past former Victory custodian Eugene Galekovic, to put the ball into the open net.

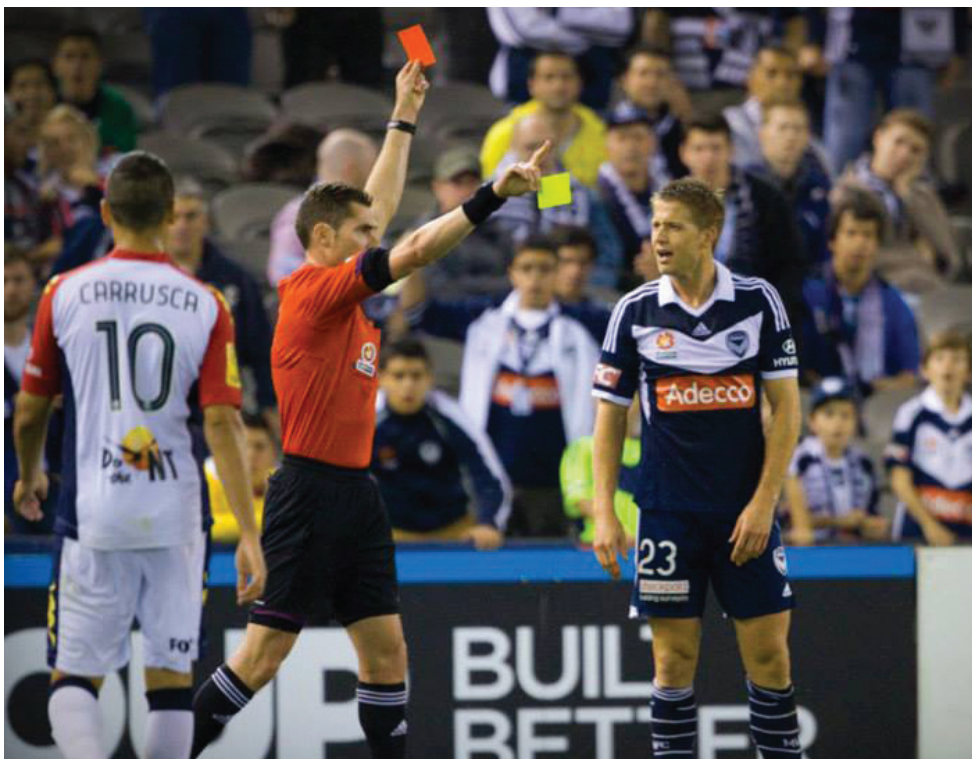
The win sees the Victory moved onto fourth place with 11 points, four points adrift off league leaders the Brisbane Roar. Next Friday night, the victors will travel to Bluetongue Stadium as it faces the reigning champions, the Central Coast Mariners.

Adelaide has not won since round one, when it defeated Perth Glory 3-1, mustering four losses and two draws. It will be looking to get back on the winners board when it faces Melbourne Heart next Sunday afternoon.

Victory	Match Stats	Adelaide United
25	Tackles	17
8	Total Shots	22
296	Total Passes	607
33.7%	Possession	66.3%
1	Corners	10
5	Offsides	3
14	Fouls committed	15

Man of the Match
Kostas Barbarouses (Victor)

Meanwhile at the other end, Victory keeper Nathan Coe blocks Cirio's penalty



Adrian Leijer sees red and Melbourne Victory are down to ten men.

Couch Potato * ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SETANTA SPORTS

FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER
UEFA Europa Cup
Tromso v Tottenham 4:50am LIVE
Legia v Lazio 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Lyon v Real Betis 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Sevilla v Estoril 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Trabzonspor v Apollon 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
UAZ v Maccabi Haifa 5:00am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Swansea v Valencia 6:55am LIVE
APOEL v Maccabi Tel-Aviv 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Pacos Ferreira v Fiorentina 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Bordeaux v Frankfurt 7:05am LIVE on setantasportsplus.com
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 2nd Leg Lanus v Libertad 11:05am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 14 Preview Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
UEFA Europa League Highlights Show 7:30pm 1st Airing

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER
Bundesliga Round 14 Wolfsburg v Hamburg 6:25am LIVE
Copa Sudamericana Semi-Final 2nd Leg Highlights Show 12:10pm 1st Airing
Scottish Cup Round 4 Falkirk v Rangers 11:15pm LIVE
Sky Bet Championship Round 18 Bournemouth v Brighton 11:15pm LIVE on setantasportsplus.com

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER
Sky Bet Championship Round 18 Huddersfield v Burnley 1:55am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 14 Schalke v Stuttgart 4:25am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 14 Bayern Munich v Braunschweig 8:20am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 14 Mainz v Dortmund 10:10am 1st Airing
Scottish Cup Round 4 Partick v Aberdeen 11:40pm LIVE

MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER
Scottish Cup Round 4 Celtic v Hearts 1:55am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 14 Hannover v Frankfurt 4:30am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Round 14 Monchengladbach v Freiburg 6:20am 1st Airing
Primera Division Round 18 Teams TBC 8:10am LIVE
Primera Division Round 18 Teams TBC 11:10am LIVE
Bundesliga Round 14 Highlights Show 7:00pm 1st Airing
Sky Bet Championship Round 18 Highlights Show 9:50pm 1st Airing

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER
Copa Sudamericana Final 1st Leg Teams TBC 10:40am LIVE

FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER
Bundesliga Round 14 Preview Show 7:00pm 1st Airing

SBS

SBS ONE
Friday November 29TH
7:00 pm A-League Live – Round 7: Mariners v Victory

Every Sunday
4:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

Every Monday
4:30 pm FIFA Futbol Mundial
11:00 pm The World Game

Every Thursday
8:30 pm Thursday FC
11:00 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine

SBS TWO
Every Monday
8:40 pm A-League Highlights Show

Every Tuesday
5:00 pm A-League Highlights Show

FOX SPORTS

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE
All times AEDT
All games LIVE unless stated

WEEK 16
Sun Dec 1 Cardiff v Arsenal
1.50 am Fox 2

Sun Dec 1 Aston Villa v Sunderland
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 1 Everton v Stoke
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 1 Norwich v Crystal Palace
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 1 West Ham v Fulham
1.50 am Viewers Choice

Sun Dec 1 Newcastle v West Brom
4.20 am Fox 2

Sun Dec 1 Tottenham v Manchester United
10.45 pm Fox 1

Mon Dec 2 Hull v Liverpool
12.55 am Fox 1

Mon Dec 2 Chelsea v Southampton
3.00 am Fox 1

Mon Dec 2 Manchester City v Swansea
3.00 am Fox 3

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE
ALL GAMES FOX 1

Fri Nov 29 Mariners v Victory 7.30 pm
Sat Nov 30 Brisbane v Perth 5.30 pm
Sat Nov 30 Sydney v Newcastle 7.45 pm
Sun Dec 1 Phoenix v Wanderers 3 pm
Sun Dec 1 Melb Heart v Adelaide 5 pm

FOX SPORTS FC
Every Tuesday 8.30 pm

SUNDAY SHOOT OUT
Every Sunday 7.00pm

SANTO, SAM & ED'S TOTAL FOOTBALL
Mondays at 7.30pm on FOX Sports 1

SPANISH LA LIGA
Sun Dec 1 Espanyol v Real Sociedad
7.55 am Fox 1

Sun Dec 2 Athletic Bilbao v Barcelona
6.55 am Fox 1

TV Heaven

Matthew Naqvi

Football can be a cruel game for some; just ask John Aloisi. Melbourne Heart was thrashed last week in a meek performance that gifted Newcastle Jets the three points and a spectacular hat-trick by Adam Taggart.

Aloisi is copping criticism from members, supporters, the media and anyone who has happened to catch a minute or two of Heart's play. Will he survive another week in charge if Heart play in the same fashion this weekend? All I know is Melbourne Heart need to do something drastic because they have no confidence and no sense of direction or purpose. Enough about Heart for now, onto this week's great football action you shouldn't miss.

In the A-League, Central Coast Mariners will host Melbourne Victory on Friday night on SBS 2. The Mariners are looking good without reaching the heights of last year's success. Victory is coming off a brave ten-man win over Adelaide United last week. They scored three goals, two of which were scored once former captain Adrian Leijer was sent off.

This game will be very close and both sides will look to attack. It is also be Marcos Flores' first game against his old team Victory, so I'm sure they will be close attention to him. I would expect a high scoring draw in this one, with both sides slotting home two goals apiece.

Another interesting game to watch in the A-League this week on Foxtel is the clash between Sydney FC and Newcastle Jets. Both teams have been in great form the last couple of weeks and this game should be an interesting test to see who wants to be in the top three.

Taggart has been in brilliant form the last few weeks and his hat-trick last week was sublime. Sydney's defence will have to be at their best to stop him and Emile Heskey from troubling the scorers. I see this game to go down to the wire with another late minute winner; however Newcastle should secure the win with a 3-2 score line.

The Goal! Weekly gang pop in to watch Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football Show at Fox Studios in South Melbourne.
The line up left to right: Sam Pang, Romel Amerikas (Live Pixel), Mark Boic (Boo's World), Brandon Galgano (VPL), Santo Cilauro, Costa Koutropoulos (GW), Evan Demas (GW), Matthew Naqvi (TV Heaven), Daniel Quinn (Breathing Football), Ed Kavalee and Daniel Campos (Latin Wrap).

When the action is all over, make sure you tune into the football analysis programs. The Goal! Weekly team were lucky enough to join the audience of Santo, Sam and Ed's Total Football this week. It is safe to say we all had a blast. Socceroo coach Ange Postecoglou was the guest for the episode and it was a treat to see the main man in person. The hosts were friendly and happy to chat; we even got a nice group photo with the guys that you can see on the front page of this issue!

SBS delivers gold with The A-League Highlights Show and The World Game on Monday night. Thursday FC is another great show for laughs and smarts on Thursday night.

Enjoy plenty of football action this weekend and hopefully your team wins.

Katsa's Korner

George Katsamboukas

Aloisi Hopes For Tide to Turn

John Aloisi needs all the help he can get as his Melbourne Heart side struggles at the wrong end of the ladder.

Frank Farina knows all about it, and after my Column a few weeks back where it was suggested that he may be gainfully unemployed shortly, Sydney FC's Season has done a full circle for the better.

As such I will make the same suggestion regarding Aloisi, perhaps this is the break that he needs to turn things around.

He will however certainly have his work cut out for him as the Melbourne Heart has some serious defensive issues and are leaking Goals, caused by very basic defensive errors, as well as their inability to convert their many goal scoring chances.

Aloisi has gone to great lengths in his after match press conferences to highlight the fact that his Team is creating numerous goal scoring opportunities that they are failing to convert, and is highlighting the face that there so many chances created, as a positive.

Unfortunately for him and the Melbourne Heart, Football is about scoring goals, points are awarded to Teams that are able to convert, and there are no prizes for near misses.

Lucas Neil made the headlines last week for all the wrong reasons.

With a question mark about him retaining the Captaincy, the pressure got the better of him, with Neil retaliating to the Crowd who were booing him during the recent Socceroos match against Costa Rico.

Not a great look Lucas and it will not do him any favours with his quest to not only hang on to the Captain's Arm Band, but his spot in the Team.

Over to Sunny Victoria we go where the FFV has announced the League Structures and Team

Compositions for Season 2014.

It would appear from the composition of the VPL that the NPVL will not go ahead in 2014, which the FFA would be none too pleased about.

A number of Clubs though anticipating the NPVL actually going ahead at a later stage are appointing Technical Directors which is a requirement for admission to this League.

Dandenong Thunder got the Ball rolling with Stuart Munro's appointment to the Technical Director role, whilst ex Southern Stars and Green Gully Coach Dean Hennessy replaces Munro on the Coach's Bench, for Season 2014.

My associates advise that other VPL Clubs will be appointing Technical Directors also.

Back to the A-League we go where Kevin Muscat after a shaky start, delivered the goods on the weekend, with his Team, playing with 10 men for the entire second half, defeating Adelaide United 3-0.

Both the result and effort shown would have pleased the Melbourne Victory Club Powerbrokers, the key for them now is to back it up in upcoming Games.

Until next week.

This is Katsa – Just as you have known him

Great Scott

Steven Scott

Remembering Gary Speed

It's hard to believe this week marks the second anniversary since the tragic death of Gary Speed, the former Wales football manager.

I wanted to use this week's column to pay tribute to Gary and to take a look back at his playing and managerial career.

Speed's 22 year playing career started way back in 1988, when he was signed by Leeds United in June of that year. He made his first-team debut at 19 for the club then in the second division, helping win promotion for Howard Wilkinson's team in 1989-90, his second full season, and winning his first Welsh cap against Costa Rica in May 1990.

Just two seasons later Speed played a key role, playing 41 of a possible 42 games and scoring seven goals, as Leeds United won the Football League Division championship title in 1991/92.

Speeds career at Elland Road spanned a further four seasons, with his final season at the club seeing him collect a runners-up medallion in the clubs 1996 Football League Cup final defeat by Aston Villa.

Speed played a total of 312 games for Leeds United and found the back of the net for them 57 times in all competitions.

As a kid growing up Speed was a mad Toffee's fan. Speed was given the honour of playing for the side he loved growing up when he was signed by Everton Manager Joe Royle before the start of the 1996-97 Premier League season.

He made a dream debut for the club, scoring in his first t game wearing royal blue against Newcastle. Later that season he scored his first and only ever career hat-trick against Southampton.

The 1997-98 season started off well for Speed, after being awarded the Captaincy of the club. Less than six months later he had left the club, joining Newcastle.

His first two years at Newcastle saw Speed pick up two FA Cup runners up medals, with losses to Arsenal in the 1998 final and then Manchester United in the 1999 final.

It was in 2004 that Speed retired from international football for Wales. His international career was highlighted by the fact he played 85 times for his country, which made him the second highest capped player only behind goalkeeper Neville Southall, who made 92 appearances.

His career at Newcastle also lasted until 2004 when he was transferred to Bolton Wanderers. Whilst at Bolton he became the first player to make 500 Premier League appearances, when he played in the club's 4–0 victory over West Ham United in December 2006.

The final club he pulled on the boots for was Sheffield United, the club he also got his first taste of Management at. Speed took over as manager of The Blades after the clubs manager Kevin Blackwell was sacked after just three games of the 2010-11 season.

His stay at Sheffield United was short, leaving that Managerial post in December 2010 to take over as the Welsh national team manager. In his 11 months as Wales Manager before his tragic death, he led the team five victories from ten matches.

Gary Speed
1969-2011

Photos: GREG SEATON

Duke pounces at the death for Mariners

Perth Glory 1

Central Coast 2

Match Details

Perth Glory 1 (Maclaren 25')
Central Coast Mariners 2 (McGlinchey 35', Duke 90+4')
Venue - nib Stadium, East Perth
Attendance – 8,923
Referee - Adam Kersey

Perth Glory - GK Danny VUKOVIC, 4 Ryan EDWARDS, 6 Cameron EDWARDS (14 Steve MCGARRY 72'), 7 Jacob BURNS, 8 Ryo NAGAI (9 Shane SMELTZ 64'), 10 Jamie MACLAREN, 16 Sidnei SCIOLA, 21 Scott JAMIESON, 23 Michael THWAITE, 24 Matthew DAVIES, 36 William GALLAS (5 Steve PANTELIDIS 32')
Substitutes not used – GK Jack DUNCAN, 17 Chris HAROLD
Yellow cards: Pantelidis, Sidnei

Central Coast Mariners - GK Liam REDDY, 3 Josh ROSE, 6 Brent GRIFFITHS, 7 John HUTCHINSON, 8 Nick MONTGOMERY (17 Anthony Caceres 8'), 9 Mitchell DUKE, 10 Marcos FLORES (2 Daniel MCBREEN 78'), 14 Michael MCGLINCHEY, 15 Storm ROUX, 16 Trent SAINSBURY, 19 Matthew SIMON (21 Mile STERJOVSKI 87')
Substitutes not used - GK Justin PASFIELD, 4 Marcel SEIP
Yellow cards: Hutchinson, Rose, Caceres

By Peter Simcox

Central Coast Mariners began life under new coach Phil Moss with a hard fought 2-1 win against Perth Glory at the nib Stadium on Saturday evening. A 93rd minute strike from Socceroos striker Mitchell Duke won the game for the Mariners, who had to come from behind, after Jamie Maclaren had opened the scoring for the home side on 25 minutes.

Moss was delighted with his sides battling performance. "I'm extremely pleased with the effort and courage they showed to keep going, and to fight for an opportunity to win the match," he said.

"Sure, it wasn't the prettiest performance our fans have ever seen, but sometimes you have to know how to win ugly. I think a lot of credit should go to the boys, because they've travelled to Perth to take on a tough Glory team and responded from the defeat against Roar to claim a well-earned win." "There will be plenty of teams who come to nib Stadium this season and return home empty handed, so this win certainly gives us something to build on," he said.

Glory lost marquee player William Gallas on 32 minutes with a calf injury, and three minutes later Michael McGlinchey levelled. Both sides had chances to win the game, but an injury to Glory defender Scott Jamison with twenty minutes remaining, meant they had to play with 10 men for the rest of the game. They held on until Duke's volley in stoppage time handed the Mariners the points.

It was a huge day for Glory skipper Jacob Burns, who played his 100th A-League game, and it was the home side that looked the brighter early. The Mariners suffered a blow when they lost Nick Montgomery after only seven minutes, with a right leg injury, and the Glory went close to the opener on 18 minutes. Gallas raced out of the back and fed Maclaren on the right. The young Socceroos' cross picked out the French defender, who had continued his run, but his acrobatic overhead kick from eight-yards flashed inches over the bar.

The home side continued to dictate terms and was rewarded with the lead on 25 minutes. Jamieson's long ball sent Maclaren racing clear and he outpaced Trent Sainsbury and lobbed Liam Reddy from the edge of the penalty area, for his second A-League goal. The joy of the 8,923 soon disappeared, when Gallas limped off with a calf strain, and he was replaced by Steve Pantalidis.

The visitors made the most of the change, levelling on 35 minutes. Matt Simon and Marco Flores combined in the middle of the park, and the Argentine midfielder burst through two Glory tackles. His ball into the penalty area was only half cleared by Michael Twaite, the ball falling at the feet of McGlinchey, whose low shot from the edge of the penalty area beat Danny Vukovic.

It was the Mariners now on top and McGlinchey went close to a second moments later, but Cameron Edwards desperate defending denied the All Whites midfielder. It was getting tough in the trenches and a clash between the two Captains looked like blowing up. John Hutchinson kicked out at Burns after a strong tackle from the Glory midfielder, and a heated exchange between players from both sides followed, but referee Adam Kersey only showed a yellow card to the Mariners skipper, with the Glory faithful looking for a red.

The woodwork then came to the home sides rescue five minutes from the break. McLinchey's curling free kick beat Vukovic, but the ball hit the inside of the post and away to safety, and at the break it was all to play for in the second.

It was the home who came out of the blocks early after the break, and the Mariners had Reddy to thank for keeping them in the contest. He parried Thwaite's shot just after the break and was alert to deny Maclaren from the rebound, and he made a stunning one-handed save to thwart Ryan Edwards' volley from 18-yards moments later as the Glory pressed.

The Mariners survived the onslaught and went close themselves on the hour, Duke was given far too much space on the right of the penalty area but his shot from 16-yards was high. The Glory made their final change on 72 minutes, but two minutes later a tackle from Simon's on Glory left back Jamieson, saw the defender carried off on the stretcher, meaning the Glory would have to play out the rest of the match with ten men after using all their substitutes.

Despite the numerical disadvantage it was the Glory, who pressed forward, but the Mariners held firm and in the third minute of stoppage time they scored the winner. Josh Rose made space down the left and his cross found the unmarked Duke. The striker met it first time, and his volley flew into the bottom corner of the net to take all three points.

Although his side was beaten but Glory coach Alistair Edwards didn't regret taking a gamble by using all three of his substitutions in little more than an hour. "It was a deliberate decision to try and win the game because three points in our home games is what we're trying to get to," Edwards said.

"Three points is better than one, but in the end we didn't get any. The gamble didn't pay off but I thought we deserved at least a point and I thought that we finished strongly once again and were unfortunate."

Marcos Flores congratulates Mitchelll Duke on his late winner. Photo: MICHAEL FARNELL

Jamie Maclaren is on target for the Glory.

The Mariners bench are ecstatic after Michael McGlinchey scored to equalize proceedings.

15	Tackles	16
8	Total Shots	10
379	Total Passes	520
43.4%	Possession	56.5%
9	Corners	5
0	Offsides	2
18	Fouls committed	15

Man of the Match
Adam Taggart (Jets)

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Photos: Ben Neville

Hearty hat-trick for Taggart

Newcastle Jets 3

Melbourne heart 1

Match Details

Newcastle Jets 3
(Taggart 38',55',62')
Melbourne Heart 1
(Migliorini 58'
At Hunter Stadium
Crowd: 12,806
Referee: Peter Green
Assistants: Brad Hobson, Ryan Gallagher
Fourth official: Stephen Lucas
Man of the match: Adam Taggart

Newcastle Jets: 1. Mark Birighitti, 2. Scott Neville, 3. Taylor Regan, 5. Ben Kantarovski, 7. Andrew Hoole (9. Emile Heskey 50'), 8. Ruben Zadkovich (capt), 10. Nathan Burns (11.Craig Goodwin 86'), 14. Josh Mitchell, 15. Josh Brillante, 16. Jacob Pepper, 22. Adam Taggart (18. James Brown81')

Substitutes not used: 6. Zenon Caravella, 20. Ben Kennedy
Yellow Cards: 31'Neville, 40' Taggart, Zadkovich, 43' Hoole, Brillante 69'
Red Cards: nil

Melbourne Heart: 1. Andrew Redmayne, 3. Rob Wielaert (capt), 6. Patrick Gerhardt, 7. Iain Ramsay, 8. Massimo Murdocca, 14. Gol Gol Mebrahtu, 15. David Williams, 16. Aziz Behich (21. Stefan Mauk 79') , 23. Mate Dugandzic (11. Michael Mifsud 63'), 24. Patrick Kisnorbo, 25. Andrea Migliorini (28. Paulo Retre 87')

Subs: 2. Jeremy walker, 20.Tando Velaphi,
Yellow Cards: Ramsay 86'
Red Cards: nil

Adam Taggart fires home a hat-trick for the Jets and heaps the misery on Melbourne Heart.

By Shaun Dyas

A sensational Adam Taggart hat-trick has inspired the Jets to a 3-1 win over the Melbourne Heart at a sun-soaked Hunter Stadium.

Taggart was almost unplayable at times, with three brilliant strikes from outside the area on each occasion leaving Heart keeper Andrew Redmayne with no chance.

Andrea Migliorini was on target for the Heart in a result that will only place more scrutiny on Heart manager John Aloisi.

Jets manager Gary Van Egmond was effusive in his praise for his young striker, who has now scored the Jets last six across three matches.

"I'm really pleased for him he has worked very hard," he said.

"He still has some areas to keep improving but he is doing very well."

Aloisi was also glowing in his praise for the man of the match Taggart.

"He scored three great goals from outside the box, you can see his confidence," he said.

Earlier, the game started slowly and was in desperate need of some inspiration. After a mostly dire first half-hour, Adam Taggart decided to provide it.

His 38th minute strike will go down as one of the best goals he will ever score. Newcastle were patiently building play in front of the Heart box when the ball was played to Taggart. After a slick first touch, he hit the ball with a small back-lift from 25 yards. The ball simply flew past a stunned Redmayne who had absolutely no chance of keeping the ball out of the net. It made it four goals in his last three appearances for the Jets, which he would later make six in three.

The only other real highlight of the half came moments after the goal when Taggart was slightly late in a challenge on former Socceroos defender Patrick Kisnorbo. The incident led to a melee and yellow cards for both Taggart and the Jets skipper, Ruben Zadkovich.

After half-time, Taggart continued his one man show, extending his goal tally to two and the home sides lead on 55 minutes.

Left-back Jacob Pepper broke away down the flank and searched inside for an option, finding Taggart. He used the Heart defence as a shield, curling the ball around the edge of his defender and into the bottom corner past a largely unsighted Redmayne.

Migliorini put the Heart back into the contest three minutes later. A soft foul was given 25 yards from goal and Migliorini smashed a shot that deflected off the wall and past Mark Birighitti in goal for the Jets, whose desperate fingertips couldn't keep it out of the net.

In previous seasons, this may have been enough to rock the confidence of a previously fragile Jets outfit, but their new found confidence and belief was again in evidence in the 62nd minute.

This time Taggart did it all himself, picking up the ball and driving at the defence. No Heart defenders were willing to challenge the striker, who this time drilled a low drive past Redmayne from 25 yards.

Newcastle have now consolidated third place on the A-League ladder ahead of a crucial trip down the M1 to face Sydney FC next Saturday night.

Van Egmond is under no illusions as to just how difficult the task will be.

"We have a really difficult game next week. Sydney are on a high and in their home town so it won't be easy," he said.

Van Egmond also spared a thought for his under-pressure counterpart, who may or may not be in charge of their match next weekend against Adelaide United.

"You do feel something for a colleague. He is an icon of our game."

Aloisi was open and honest when questioned after the game, explaining how he plans to get his team out of their current situation.

"Everyone at Melbourne Heart is working hard to turn it around because we are good enough to turn it around," he said.

Whether he will get the chance though remains to be seen.

Match Stats

12	Tackles	23
12	Total Shots	7
420	Total Passes	309
57.5%	Possession	42.5%
2	Corners	2
1	Offsides	3
16	Fouls committed	16

Man of the Match
Adam Taggart (Jets)

Newcastle's Ruben Zadkovich closes in on Heart's Patrick Gerhardt.

Josh Mitchell and Mate Dugandzic go toe-to-toe in the air.

CC Mariners v Melbourne Victory

Fri Nov 29 Bluetongue Stdm 7:30 PM

Mariners Line Up

1.Justin PASFIELD (go)
2.Daniel MCBREEN
3.Joshua ROSE
4.Marcel SEIP
5.Zachary ANDERSON
6.Brent GRIFFITHS
7.John HUTCHINSON (C)
8.Nick MONTGOMERY
9.Mitchell DUKE
10.Marcos FLORES
11.Nick FITZGERALD
12.Liam REDDY (go)
14.Michael MCGLINCHEY
15.Storm ROUX
16.Trent SAINSBURY
17.Anthony CACERES
19.Matt SIMON
21.Mile STERJOVSKI
Two to be omitted

Ins: 5. Zachary ANDERSON, 11. Nick FITZGERALD (promoted)

Outs: Nil

Unavailable: 22. Tom SLATER (back – 2 weeks)

Moss the Boss in Arnie's Footsteps

Adrian Deans

So, first home game of the Phil Moss era, and against the Victory.

I love these games. Victory are always entertaining and their travelling fans are numerous, noisy and colourful. Mind you, they haven't had much success at Bluetongue over the years – but nobody has, with the partial exception of the Wanderers and the Roar. Bluetongue has been a graveyard in the Arnie era so the home fans will be anxious to see that lethal reality continue.

Mossy has started well. It's no fun going to Perth these days and his novel approach – first up – of travelling on match day paid off. It also showed incredible guts (unless the Mariners are having another cash crisis and couldn't afford a hotel).

Michael McGlinchey had been badly missed in the last outing loss to Brisbane and was quickly back pulling strings in the midfield, unleashing Marcos Flores to do his best work. The combination of those two will have a major impact on how Friday night unfolds.

Of course, it takes two to tango, and Victory are also coming off a famous win. Their 3 – 0 result against arch-rivals Adelaide after being reduced to 10 men will give them enormous confidence. Form-wise, they have some of the best players in the league at the moment. Mark Milligan, Nathan Coe, Leigh Broxham, James Troisi and Mitch Nichols are all playing brilliant football in the best Ange Postecoglou tradition, but after last Saturday the entire team seems to be benefiting from the Muscat stamp. That may well have been a season defining performance.

One player who needs to aim up is Archie Thompson. I've always liked Archie but he wastes too many easy chances for someone who hopes to be on the plane to Brazil next year. Every now and then he gets it right so the Mariners will be hoping it aint this Friday.

I think this game will be all about the Mariners' superb defence versus the Victory's potent attack. If the Victory can't score at least two goals, then they won't win. The Mariners have enough in the front third to get at least one and maybe more than one on the break. I doubt whether there'll be more than a goal in it but I reckon this has draw written all over it.

The Phil Moss era to continue undefeated, but a win will be very difficult.

Adrian Deans is the author of Mr Cleansheets and more recently Straight Jacket – published by High Horse Books and available in all good book stores. www.adriandeans.com

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Mariners 2.05 Draw 3.50 Victory 3.75	Played 25 Mariners 9 Victory 9 Drawn 7

Referee: Kris Griffiths-Jones

Radio Broadcast: 92.5 ABC Central Coast, 936 ABC Hobart, ABC Northern Tasmania, Grandstand Digital and Online/Mobile phone app. Coast FM (Central Coast). SBS Radio.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #CCMvMVC

Kiss of Death
Mariners 1 – 1 Victory

Victory Line Up

1.Nathan COE (gk)
2.Pablo CONTRERAS
3.Adama TRAORE
4.Nick ANSELL
5.Mark MILLIGAN
7.Gui FINKLER
9.Kosta BARBAROUSES
10.Archie THOMPSON
11.Connor PAIN
13.Andrew NABBOUT
14.James TROISI
15.Mitch NICHOLS
16.Rashid MAHAZI
17.Jimmy JEGGO
20.Lawrence THOMAS (gk)
24.Scott GALLOWAY
25.Jason GERIA
One to be omitted

Ins: 17. Jimmy JEGGO, 13. Andrew NABBOUT, 25. Jason GERIA (all promoted)

Outs: 6. Leigh BROXHAM (suspended – 1 week), 23. Adrian LEIJER (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable: nil

Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory

Sat Nov 30 Suncorp Stadium 5:30 PM

Roar Line Up

1.Michael THEO (gk)
2.Matthew SMITH (c)
5.Ivan FRANJIC
7.Besart BERISHA
10.HENRIQUE
13.Jade NORTH
14.Diogo FERREIRA
15.James DONACHIE
17.Matt McKAY
18.Luke BRATTAN
19.Jack HINGERT
20.Matthew ACTON (gk)
22.Thomas BROICH
23.Dimitri PETRATOS
26.Corey BROWN
28.Brandon BORRELLO
29.Kwame YEBOAH
One to be omitted

In: Brandon BORRELLO (promoted)

Out: Nil

Unavailable: 3. Shane STEFANUTTO (hamstring – one week), 11. Liam MILLER (calf – one week), 25. George LAMBADARDIS (knee - season)

Good Times to Roll for Roar

Jarrod Ellis

Brisbane will return to Suncorp Stadium this Saturday afternoon high on confidence after last week's thrilling 3-1 win over Western Sydney Wanderers. That result saw the Roar move top of the table and the arrival of a Perth Glory side weakened by injury and suspension should see them remain there for at least another week.

Brisbane v Perth has been a grudge match since the controversial 2011-12 A-League Grand Final and that extra emotion may need to be harnessed by the Glory when they take to the pitch on Saturday. Injuries to Scott Jamieson and William Gallas along with a two game suspension for club captain Jacob Burns significantly weakens a side that has struggled for consistency this season.

The suspension of Burns is a considerable blow, the club not having expected anything significant to arise from the match review panel's assessment of Burns' tangle with Mariners' skipper John Hutchinson.

Instead Alistair Edwards will now be without his skipper as he attempts to get his side's season back on track after a frustrating run of results that has seen the Glory without a win since round four.

That run of results hasn't derailed Perth's season but has served to highlight their difficulties in finding the back of the net, Perth still yet to record more than a solitary goal in a game this season.

The resolution of those problems undoubtedly rests on the shoulders of Shane Smeltz, the prolific Kiwi striker now no longer troubled with injuries or national team duties after New Zealand's World Cup exit at the hands of Mexico.

However, given the recent generous nature of Brisbane's defence when it comes to ball distribution the Glory may well find themselves gifted some golden chances regardless of Smeltz's contributions.

Despite Jade North effectively giving a goal away last week Brisbane were still strong enough to see off Western Sydney Wanderers and Mike Mulvey's men are now undefeated in their last eight matches at Suncorp Stadium.

There were plenty of positives for the Roar to come out of the match against Wanderers, not the least of them the return of Besart Berisha.

Despite lasting little more than an hour last time out Brisbane's star striker still found the time and fitness to score a goal and cause jitters rarely seen in the Wanderers defence. With another week behind him on the training pitch Berisha should be approaching full fitness and will no doubt be looking to cause the Glory and their fans more anguish.

Former Glory midfielder Liam Miller is unlikely to take part in the match against his former employers, after suffering a setback in his recovery from a calf problem. Whilst Shane Stefanutto is another who won't be making an appearance, the veteran left-back's hamstring still troubling him.

Their continued absences should make for an unchanged Roar lineup come Saturday afternoon and despite Perth recording a 1-0 win on their last visit to Queensland it's difficult to envisage the Glory returning home with anything more than a handy loss this time around.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Roar 1.47 Draw 4.50 Glory 7.84	Played 25 Roar 15 Glory 5 Drawn 5

Referee: Tim McGilchrist

Radio Broadcast: 612 ABC Brisbane, ABC Local Radio Queensland, 720 ABC Perth, ABC Local Radio WA, Grandstand Digital Brisbane and Perth and Online/Mobile phone app

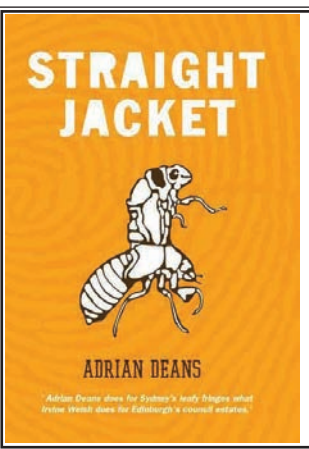
Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #BRIvPER

Kiss of Death
Roar 4-0 Glory

Glory Line Up

1.Daniel VUKOVIC (gk)
2.Jack CLISBY
3.Brandon O'NEILL
4.Ryan EDWARDS
5.Steve PANTELIDIS
6.Cameron EDWARDS
8.Ryo NAGAI
9. Shane SMELTZ
10.Jamie MACLAREN
11. Adrian ZAHRA
14.Steven McGARRY
15. Isaka CERNAK
16.Sidnei SCIOLA MORAES
17. Chris HAROLD
18.Jack DUNCAN
23.Michael THWAITE
24.Matthew DAVIES
25. Riley WOODCOCK
Two to be omitted
Ins: 11. Adrian ZAHRA (promoted), 15. Isaka CERNAK (promoted), 25. Riley WOODCOCK (promoted), 2. Jack CLISBY (promoted), 3.Brandon O'NEILL (promoted)

Outs: 7.Jacob BURNS (suspended – 2 matches), 21.Scott JAMIESON (Achilles – Season), 36. William GALLAS (calf – 1 week)
Unavailable: Nil



A new novel by GW's Adrian Deans

Adrian Deans does for Sydney's leafy fringes what Irvine Welsh does for Edinburgh's council estates.
Straight Jacket is a ripsnorter of a ride through the dark heart of the burbs and may just be Australia's answer to American Psycho.
Kirsten Krauth, just_a_girl

Sometimes funny, sometimes disturbing, and always compelling. With a super original premise and a one-of-a-kind protagonist, Deans' entertaining follow up to Mr Cleansheets delivers on every level.
Tony Wilson, Making News

A disturbingly good read. Unnerving and darkly comic.
Stuart Quin, Ealing Studios Australia

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Sydney FC v Newcastle Jets

Sat Nov 30 Allianz Stadium 7:30 PM

Sydney FC Line Up

1.Ivan NECEVSKI (gK)
2.Seb RYALL
4.Ranko DESPOTOVIC
5.Matt JURMAN
6.Nikola PETKOVIC
7.Brett EMERTON
10.Alessandro DEL PIERO (c)
11.Richard GARCIA
14.Mitch MALLIA
15.Terry MCFLYNN
16.Joel CHIANESE
19.Nicky CARLE
20.Vedran JANJETOVIC (gK)
21.Yairo YAU
22.Ali ABBAS
27.Christopher NAUMOFF
28.Matt THOMPSON
29.Alec UROSEVSKI
Two to be omitted

Ins:, 14. Mitch MALLIA (promoted) 28. Matt THOMPSON (promoted) 29. Alec UROSEVSKI (promoted).

Outs: 8. Pedj BOJIC (suspended – 1 week)

Unavailable: Rhyan GRANT (knee – season), Peter TRIANTIS (groin - indefinite), Terry ANTONIS (thigh - indefinite), Pedj BOJIC (suspended – 1 week), Tiago Calvano (Suspended – 8 weeks)

In-form Rivals go Full Circle

Brysin Farreira

Sydney FC will be looking for a fourth consecutive win this weekend against a fellow in form and much-improved Newcastle Jets outfit at Allianz Stadium.

Another win for either the Sky Blues or Jets will leave them in a commanding position after 8 rounds, given that they are now only 3 points from high-flying Brisbane Roar, and 2 points from the consistent Western Sydney Wanderers.

The Jets haven't lost since the corresponding fixture in week one, a game in which Sydney FC dominated, starving the Jets of goal-scoring opportunities.

Since then however, the Jets have found their form, not to mention a new talisman and somewhat of a cult hero amongst the Squadron, Adam Taggart.

The promising youngster has scored six goals in seven appearances in the absence of Emile Heskey, including a hat-trick last week against the Heart.

Wins against Adelaide United and the competition leaders Brisbane Roar, have rocketed the Jets up the ladder in recent weeks and put them equal on points with this week's opponent.

Much like their Sydney rivals, the Jets were written off after the first month of fixtures, following poor performances that left them reeling with only 3 points in the opening four rounds.

Since then, both teams have been in excellent form, securing three wins in a row, albeit without playing their best football.

With the talent Sydney FC have in their squad, particularly last weeks match-winner Ranko Despotovic, the Sky Blues are undoubtedly a top six team, and they're beginning to show that.

They still have a lot of work to do, as Frank Farina and Rado Vidosic continue to implement a passing based, pressing style of play, as well as sorting out the Sky Blues ongoing defensive issues.

The best teams however, win without playing their best, and Sydney FC have done that over the past 3 weeks, and so have the Jets to a certain extent.

Despite being in goal-scoring form in recent weeks, the Jets had to battle for some hard-fought, ugly draws in the first month of competition, notably a unexpected point against their local rivals and champions, Central Coast.

Despite having been written off by many, they are now one of only three teams with one loss, and despite their start, are only three points from the top with star man Emile Heskey still not back to full fitness.

This week, Sydney FC will be looking for the same result as week one, and will more than likely try and emulate the same performance.

The Sky Blues were able to frustrate the Jets by keeping hold of the ball and starving them of procession, and unlike the weeks that followed, kept their structure in defence, negating any threat the Jets posed.

This weekend should be a different however, with a high-flying Jets team a shadow of their former selves.

The key to this match-up will be whose defence holds up against two attacks with plenty of goal scoring talent.

If both teams play to their strengths [and succumb to their weaknesses] expect a goal-fest at Allianz Stadium on Saturday night.

On paper the Sky Blues should have the measure of the Jets, however, that's what many said before the Jets beat an impressive Roar team two weeks ago.

If Sydney FC can keep their structure at the back and contain the in-form Adam Taggart, expect a fourth win in a row for the Sky Blues in front of their loyal fans.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Sydney FC 2.20 Draw 3.40 Jets 3.40	Played 27 Sydney FC 14 Jets 14 Drawn 7

Referee: Ben Williams

Radio Broadcast: 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local Radio Victoria, 891 ABC Adelaide, ABC Local Radio South Australia Grandstand Digital and Online/ Mobile phone app.SEN (Melbourne)

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #SYDvNEW

Kiss of Death
SFC 2-2 Jets

Jets Line Up

1. Mark BIRIGHITTI (gK)
2. Scott NEVILLE
3. Taylor REGAN
4. Kew JALIENS
5. Ben KANTAROVSKI
6. Zenon CARAVELLA
7. Andrew HOOLE
8. Ruben ZADKOVICH (c)
9. Emile HESKEY
10. Nathan BURNS
11. Craig GOODWIN
15. Josh BRILLANTE
16. Jacob PEPPER
18. James BROWN
19. Michael BRIDGES
20. Ben KENNEDY (gK)
21. Sam GALLAWAY
22. Adam TAGGART
Two to be omitted.

Ins: Kew Jaliens (returns from suspension), Michael Bridges (promoted), Sam Gallaway (returns from injury)

Outs: Josh Mitchell

Unavailable: Connor CHAPMAN (ankle)

Wellington Phoenix v Wanderers

Sun Dec 1 Westpac Stadium 3:00 PM

Phoenix Line Up

1.Glen Moss (gK)
2.Manny Muscat
5.Michael Boxall
6.Josh Brindell-South
7.Leo Bertos
8.Paul Ifill
9.Kenny Cunningham
10.Stein Huysegems
11.Jeremy Brockie
12.Tyler Boyd
13.Albert Riera
15.Jason Hicks
16.Louis Fenton
17.Vince Lia
18.Ben Sigmund
20.Lewis Italiano (gK)
21.Carlos Hernandez
22.Andrew Durante (c)
Two to be omitted

In: 5. Michael Boxall (promoted), 6. Josh Brindell-South (promoted), 12 Tyler Boyd (promoted).

Out: 3. Reece Caira (omitted).

Unavailable: Nil.

'Nix Finally Home For WSW Visit

Joe Gallagher

They're within touching distance of completely different ends of the A-League ladder, but all that counts for nothing when Western Sydney Wanderers and Wellington Phoenix meet this Sunday.

Both are coming off losses last week but the men at the helm aren't panicking.

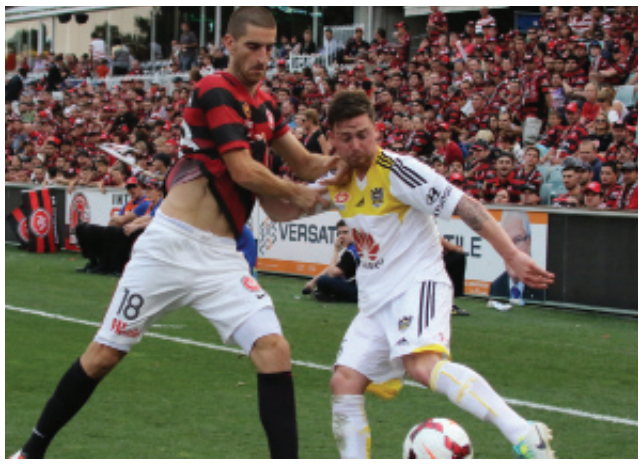
Wanderers coach Tony Popovic was pleased with the way his side controlled the match against Brisbane Roar in Queensland last Friday, but to be undone by a trio of superb individual goals by the two-time champions.

Wellington boss Ernie Merrick admitted that his side's last-gasp 2-1 defeat at the hands of Sydney FC was 'extremely disappointing'.

"I thought our possession play was good right through the 90 minutes. We built up from the back, our balls forward were good," he said post-match. "It was one of those days."

But 'one of those days' is becoming an increasingly regular occurrence in New Zealand's capital. Sitting perilously in ninth on the table, Wellington are yet to have won a game this season and are suffering from a crippling lack of ruthlessness in front of goal.

Vince Lia and last year's top goal-scorer Jeremy Brockie were guilty of spurning a number of golden chances to salvage at least a point from the visit to New South Wales.



Merrick, who has been juggling a depleted squad from day one this term, will be pleased to finally return home to Wellington for what will be – amazingly – only the Phoenix's second game at Westpac Stadium this season. Since round one, he has landed in Sydney, Napier, Melbourne and Christchurch, but a number of his players have gone as far abroad as Mexico City and Los Angeles.

'I think it's easy to go back to the old excuses. Everybody knows that the Phoenix loses players to the All Whites. But everyone forgets, it wasn't just seven All Whites away, it was two Costa Ricans and two under-17s," Merrick said. "We've only had one game in Wellington, we've done a lot of travelling, so it wasn't just that. But that doesn't matter, we did enough to win that game [against Sydney]."

While he is battling to explain his side's luckless start to the A-League season without dipping into the pool of excuses at his disposal, it's a pool that is starting to dry up with players returning to the squad and international duties over for now.

Merrick could do worse than to offer a start to one of his Costa Ricans, Kenny Cunningham, who impressed off the bench at Allianz Stadium and even registered what looked like a match-saving equaliser in stoppage time.

The last time the two sides met Wellington earned a meritorious draw in Parramatta with a second half goal to Brockie.

Other than an opening 20 minutes which saw last season's minor premiers trailing 2-0, Popovic thinks there is plenty to build on from Friday's performance.

"We totally pressed and bossed the game for 70 minutes away from home. I'm not too sure that too many teams will dominate here for 70 minutes against Brisbane. That's a real positive for us."

He might be tempted to reinstate Yousuff Hersi back into his lineup for the trip across the Tasman but will still be without Tomi Juric, who is out for a few more weeks with injury. Similarly marquee man Shinji Ono is under an injury cloud and could miss the match against the Phoenix.

Fighting off suggestions that Brisbane and Western Sydney could meet deep into the finals next year, Popovic is content to stick with a philosophy of treating the season one game at a time. But in doing so, he might have inadvertently offered some comfort to his hosts this weekend.

"Last year we had a terrible start and finished on top."

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Phoenix 3.75 Draw 3.40 Wanderers 2.07	Played 4 Phoenix 1 Wanderers 2 Drawn 1

Referee: Lucien Laverdure

Radio Broadcast: 702 ABC Sydney, ABC Local Radio NSW, 666 ABC Canberra, Grandstand Digital Sydney Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #WELvWSW

Kiss of Death
Phoenix 2-2 Wanderers

Wanderers Line Up

1.Ante COVIC (go)
2.Shannon COLE
3.Adam D'APUZZO
4.Nikolai TOPOR-STANLEY
5.Michael BEAUCHAMP (c)
6.Jerome POLENZ
7.Labinot HALITI
8.Mateo POLJAK
10.Aaron MOOY
11.Brendon SANTALAB
12.Tahj MINNIECON
13.Matthew SPIRANOVIC
18.Iacopo LA ROCCA
19.Mark BRIDGE
20.Jerrad TYSON (gK)
22. Dean Heffernan
23.Jason TRIFIRO
One to be omitted

Ins: 23.Jason TRIFIRO (promoted), 5.Michael Beauchamp (promoted)

Outs: 21.Shinji ONO (groin)

Unavailable: 17.Youssouf HERSI (foot), 9. Tomi Juric (knee)

Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United

Sun Dec 1 AAMI Park 5:00 PM

Heart Line Up

1.Andrew REDMAYNE (gK)
2.Jeremy WALKER
3.Robbie WIELAERT
6.Patrick GERHARDT
7.Iain RAMSAY
8.Massimo MURDOCCA
10.Harry KEWELL (c)
11.Michael MIFSUD
14.Golgol MEBRAHTU
15.David WILLIAMS
16.Aziz BEHICH
17.Jason HOFFMAN
18.David VRANKOVIC
20.Tando VELAPHI (gK)
21.Stefan MAUK
22.Nick KALMAR
23.Mate DUGANDZIC
24.Patrick KISNORBO
25.Andrea MIGLIORINI
Two to be omitted

Ins: 17.Jason HOFFMAN (returns from injury), 10.Harry Kewell (Returns from injury), 18. David VRANKOVIC (promoted)

Outs: 28.Paulo RETRE (Not Selected)

Unavailable: 4 Orlando ENGELAAR (Fractured tibia – long-term), 9.Dylan MACALLISTER (Hamstring – ~2-3 weeks), 13.Jonatan GERMANO (Hamstring – ~1 weeks)

Heart hope to end run over Reds

Adrian Houghton

The season's two most disappointing outfits face off on Sunday afternoon in an extremely important clash for both teams.

Melbourne Heart were beaten by an inspired Adam Taggart, who scored the first hat-trick of the season and kept the Newcastle Jets firmly in the top four mix.

It wasn't all doom and gloom, however, with the Red and White netting their first goal in 447 minutes of play via Andrea Migliorini's first goal for the club.

That small slice of solace will be hard for the supporters to fathom, following yet another defeat which leaves them stranded rock-bottom with just two points from a possible 21.

Their upcoming opponents, Adelaide United have been experiencing a similar fate.

The Reds languish in eighth position and have only recorded a solitary victory thus far, sitting three points ahead of the Heart.

Club coach Josep Gombau has called for patience, as he tries to implement a possession based passing game.

Last weekend his side received an embarrassing 3-0 loss away to Melbourne Victory, despite having a man advantage for over half of the match, and when trailing by a single goal.

The cohesion between the attack and defence is severely lacking at the present time, meaning that the Heart will fancy their chances of claiming a first win of the campaign.

Sunday's meeting is a meeting of the two worst defences in the division, with both teams having conceded 12 goals each.

Harry Kewell could make a long awaited return to the squad, after missing the past five matches through a series of injuries.

Adelaide have been dealt a crushing blow with left-back Cassio rupturing a tendon in his hamstring during the side's loss to the Victory.

In times of crisis a club turns to its more senior players, so for the Heart the likes of Massimo Murdocca, Robbie Wielaert, Patrick Kisnorbo and a returning Kewell will be invaluable.

For the visitors, they will need more accomplished players like Eugene Galekovic, Nigel Boogaard, Tarek Elrich and Jeronimo to influence proceedings.

Both teams possess enough potency on paper to win a game of football.

The major problem for the Red and White is their lack of creativity in the final third and a clinical finisher.

The Odds	Head-to-Head
Heart 2.20	Played 9
Draw 3.40	Heart 2
Adelaide 3.40	Adelaide 5
	Drawn 2

Referee: Strebre Delovski

Radio Broadcast: 774 ABC Melbourne, ABC Local radio Victoria, 891 ABC Adelaide, ABC Local Radio South Australia, Grandstand Digital Melbourne and Adelaide, Online/Mobile phone app

Join the conversation on Twitter using the hash-tag #MHTvADL

Kiss of Death
Heart 1-1 Adelaide

On the other hand, the Reds have scored 8 goals from their seven matches and have relinquished winning positions through a lack of work rate when in transition.

The real problem Adelaide face is that teams feel comfortable soaking up the pressure, keeping their shape and exposing the side's high line – Heart will more than happy to do the same this Sunday.

With both teams desperate for maximum points, one can expect to see a lively affair.

The Heart's lack of cutting edge could curb their chances of victory, but they will be far more suited to playing on the counter attack and should do enough to at least gain a point against equally suspect Reds defence.

Adelaide Utd Line Up

1.Eugene GALEKOVIC (gK) (c)
3.Nigel BOOGAARD
5.Osama MALIK
7.JERONIMO
8.ISAIAS
9.Sergio CIRIO
10.Marcelo CARRUSCA
11.Bruce DJITE
12.Antony GOLEC
13.Steven LUSTICA
17.Awer MABIL
18.Michael ZULLO
19.Jake BARKER-DAISH
21.Tarek ELRICH
22.Fabio FERREIRA
23.Jordan ELSEY
30.John HALL (gk)
One to be omitted

Ins: 12.Antony GOLEC (promoted), 19.Jake BARKER-DAISH (promoted)

Outs: 6.CASSIO (hamstring tendon – TBC)

Unavailable: 4.Jon McKAIN (illness – 1 week), 16.Daniel BOWLES (ankle – 2 weeks), 20.Paul IZZO (go) (adductor – 2 weeks)

Economic impact of Liverpool's Melbourne visit released in new economic study

The release of a report into the impact on the Victorian economy from July's Liverpool visit has just been released with a far greater economic impact then what was budgeted for leading to the Victorian state government investigating the possibility of more world class teams visiting Melbourne in the future.

After attracting 95,000 spectators to the game between Liverpool and the Melbourne Victory at the MCG it is estimated to have generated $35 million for the state economy compared to the budgeted windfall of $10 million.

The game was the second highest attendance for a football match in Australia only behind the Sydney Olympics games gold medal match between Spain and Cameroon.

The Victorian government has drawn up a wish list of teams to bring out but will face stiff competition from Sydney who themselves had a successful visit from Manchester United this winter.

The likes of Chelsea, Arsenal, Juventus, Bayern Muinch have all been linked while a return from Liverpool in 2015 in also on the cards.

The tour itself was also a boom for the Liverpool Football Club obtaining the record sales of merchandise over a 24 hour period during their week in Melbourne.

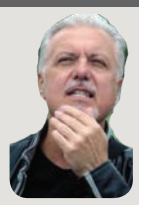
- JOSH HERCUS

Round 8: ASK THE EXPERTS

THE VERDICT Mariners - 4 Victory - 6 - Draw - 3 | Roar - 15 Glory - 0 Draw - 0 | Sydney FC - 5 Jets - 1 Draw - 9 | Phoenix - 3 Wanderers- 9 Draw - 3 | Heart - 8 Adelaide - 3 Draw - 4

Santo Cilauro 19
Draw
Roar
Draw
Draw
Heart
Last week: 4

Working Dog Productions

George Donikian 16
Draw
Roar
Draw
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 3

Media Mogul

George Calombaris 18
Victory
Roar
Jets
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 4

No.1 Victory ticket holder

Eddie Krncevic 13
Mariners
Roar
Draw
Phoenix
Heart
Last week:2

Former Socceroo

John Perin 15
Victory
Brisbane
Draw
WSW
Draw
Last week: 2

Hall of Fame Socceroo

Andy Harper 15
Victory
Brisbane
Draw
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 3

NSL Champ / Fox Sports

Ross Alatsas 19
Mariners
Roar
Sydney FC
Phoenix
Heart
Last week: 4

GM Greek Media Group

Jimmy Campbell 16
Victory
Roar
Sydney
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

George Campbell 17
Draw
Roar
Sydney FC
Draw
Adelaide
Last week: 3

Sth Melb & NSL Legend

Jimmy Rooney 11
Victory
Roar
Draw
Phoenix
Draw
Last week: 4

World Cup '74 Socceroo

Roger Sleeman 18
Victory
Roar
Draw
Wanderers
Adelaide
Last week: 3

Reigning Tipping Champ

John Doyle 15
Mariners
Roar
Draw
Wanderers
Adelaide
Last week: 4

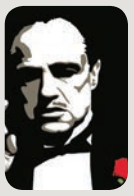
Original Captain Socceroo

Peter Katholos 17
Draw
Brisbane
Sydney FC
Wanderers
Draw
Last week: 3

Former Socceroo

Steve Blair 16
Mariners
Roar
Sydney
Wanderers
Heart
Last week: 4

Former Socceroo

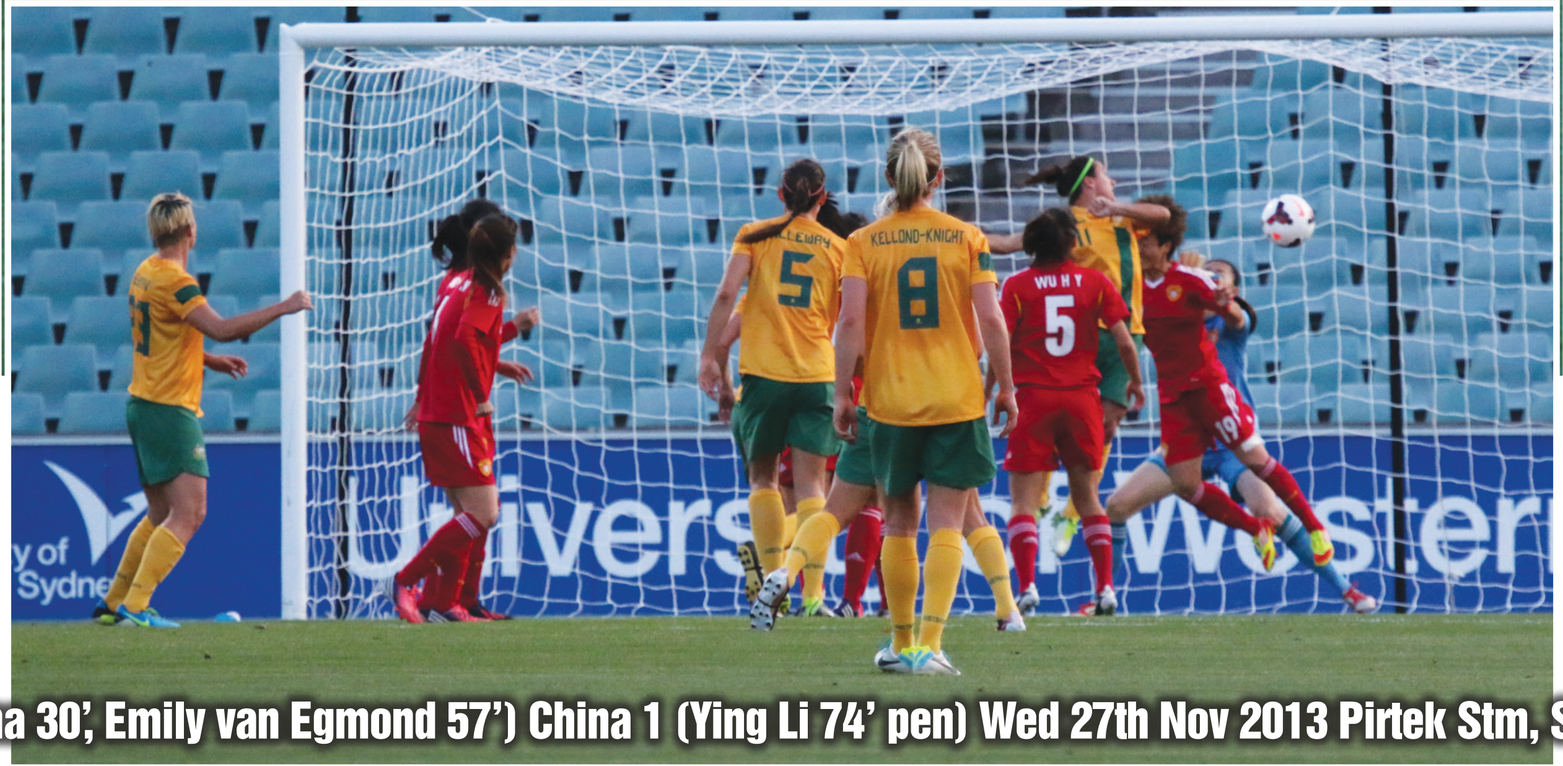
Kiss Of Death 16
Draw
Roar
Draw
Draw
Draw
Last week: 4

GW Contributors

GOAL! WEEKLY
GOAL! WEEKLY PAGE 29TH NOVEMBER 2013

THE MATILDAS

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

23. Michelle Heyman, 19. Katrina Gorry, 16. Steph Catley, 13. Tameka Butt, 11. Lisa De Vanna, 10. Emily van Egmond, 8. Elise Kellond-Knight, 5. Laura Alleway, 3. Kim Carroll, 18. Lydia Williams (gk), 4. Clare Polkinghorne



Australia 2 (Lisa De Vanna 30', Emily van Egmond 57') China 1 (Ying Li 74' pen) Wed 27th Nov 2013 Pirtek Stm, Sydney Attendance: 1,657

TWEETS OF THE WEEK

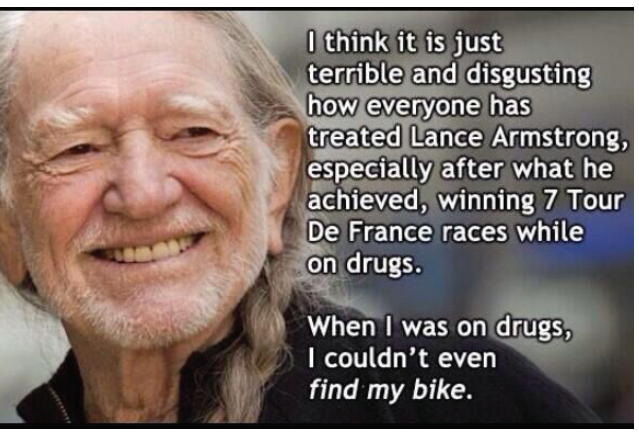
Compiled by Roy Skillen

There have been some fantastic football quotes floating around in Twitter land this week. Like this one from Chelsea's "Special One" Portuguese manager, Jose Mourinho, after he was asked about Liverpool's title chances.

Football Quotes @FootballQuote_
21 Nov
"When I hear them say they can win the title, it makes me feel like laughing" Jose Mourinho on Liverpool

But I couldn't let the week go by without including this from a guy that has nothing to do with football talking about a totally different sport. God bless you Willy Nelson.

Football Quotes @FootballQuote_
22 Nov
Willie NelsonLAD pic.twitter.com/mE5u7EjId6



There are currently many different theories on the best way to play the beautiful game. Mourinho likes to hit teams on the counter attack with quick direct passing. Guardiola likes to push his teams forward creating chances by dominating possession. Josep Gambau likes to abandon all defensive responsibilities in the hope his team will score more than the opposition and Tony Pulis still likes to lump it long and feed off the knock downs, but surely all these theories are just complicating what is really a simple game.

Football Quotes @FootballQuote_
20 Nov
"Football is a simple game. Twenty-two men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans always win." Gary Lineker

Sports commentator, Tara Rushton, raised a few eyebrows when she was asked to select her all time Socceroos eleven. What do you guys think?

.@TaraRushton @socceroos Golden XI-Schwarzer,Neill,Tobin,Moore,Bresciano, Zelic,Slater,Cahill,Farina,Viduka, Kewell pic.twitter.com/GB81rrATrp

She didn't really but I needed an excuse to mention her name so that I could include this picture of her posing for FHM magazine.

Kevin Muscat hasn't had the best of times since taking over as Melbourne Victory coach. Two defeats in a week against Sydney and Western Sydney left some questioning his appointment. Things looked like getting worse for the former Socceroo when his side went down to ten men against Adelaide and he decided to pull James Troisi from the field before half time. The midfielder didn't take it too well, and was told by his boss to "sit down on the bench" as he tried to storm off down the tunnel prompting one fan to ask this question

FOX SPORTS Football @FOXFootballLive
23 Nov
Who does James Troisi dislike most at the moment? Retweet for Kevin Muscat, favourite for Adrian Leijer. #MVCvADL pic.twitter.com/Y4QoNg-Gh3z

The retweets won.

People really should wait before they make comments on such things as this Western Sydney fan learnt.

West Sydney Football @WestSydney
23 Nov
Muscat you tool, taking off the best player in your team and leaving on some three game rookie. #Joke

Melbourne Victory went on to win 3-0 you tool.

Probably the best game of the season took place in England with the Merseyside Derby ending in an amazing 3-3 draw after substitute Daniel Sturridge saved Liverpool with a header in the last minute of the game. It was fast and furious with crunching tackles from both sides but if there was one thing that we all learnt from the match it has to be that ……..

Not Freddie Mercury retweeted your Retweet

23 Nov: Remember lads, its not a long ball if Gerrard does it

The real Freddie Mercury gets ready to play in Argentina, with afros to give Maradona a run for his money.

Boo's World

Mark Boric

It seems some things never change. David Carney has been released by New York Red Bulls, and after a grueling nine games he will probably need a couple of years rest before diving into finding a new club. Harry Kewell has had a club for a while, but hasn't played for it since picking up an injury (whiplash) in his first game. If either of them ever sell gear like boots or shin pads etc on eBay you can rest assured theirs are likely to be close to mint condition.

Andy Harper is the Black Knight from Monty Python and the Holy Grail of Australian football commentary. Refusing to concede defeat on behalf of Melbourne Heart against Newcastle Jets on the weekend had me thinking of how he may have seen other famous events and scenes:

"Well Simon, Red Dog looks a bit crook, but don't rule him out from springing back up and wagging his tail happily any second now."

"Thanks Tara. I'm here Glenrowan and the troopers have the fugitive Ned Kelly surrounded. But with his armoured suit protecting him, don't be suprised if he makes a bid to ride through their lines taking on a hail of bullets. The possibility of escape is very real."

"Incredible! Multiple gunshots have struck the American President here in Dallas! He's slumped over onto the First Lady, who's body language suggests things don't look good. Hopefully some urgent treatment at Parkland Hospital should save him".

I saw Marc Warren was nominated for some Fair Play Award. I suppose that was as in "fair play to him for thinking he can play football"? Alanis Morrisette-style irony in that it came in the week after he was sent-off.

Melbourne Heart could do well to show their players a highlights package of Besart Berisha's game against the Wanderers in the last round. Not so they can observe how he makes his runs, or uses his skills, but to show what a player with passion and intensity looks like. He was like a caged lion finally released when coming back from injury in the game.

Speaking of the Wanderers, Kevin Mirallas sure took the heat off Jerome Polenz with one of the wildest tackles ever seen in the Merseyside Derby. Richie Garcia would have had stud-mark pictures all over Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and probably even his Wikipedia page after that one.

It looks like James Troisi now knows that when Kevin Muscat tells him to sit down, he is not making a suggestion. The other temperamental player of the week, Socceroo skipper Lucas Neill, clearly hasn't watched enough vintage-era The Simpsons, because he'd have won fans not lost them had he retorted "Are you booing or saying Boo-urns?"

AGAINST ALL ODDS

A-League Title 2013/14

Brisbane Roar	4.00
Wanderers	4.00
Central Coast Mariners	6.00
Melbourne Victory	4.50
Sydney FC	9.00
Newcastle Jets	7.00
Perth Glory	17.0
Adelaide United	21.0
Wellington Phoenix	34.0
Melbourne Heart	51.0

Billy Whiteside Cup

Sunday, 30th November, 2013
Eastern Lions SC
Gardiners Reserve, Sixth Avenue, Burwood
(Melway : 60J8)

Legends Match: England v Scotland KO 12pm
Sons of Legends Match: KO 2pm
Free BBQ & Drinks at club prices
Online auction via Club Bid with all proceeds going to The Royal Children's Hospital
Raffle on the day and live entertainment after the games

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OR admin@easternlions.com.au

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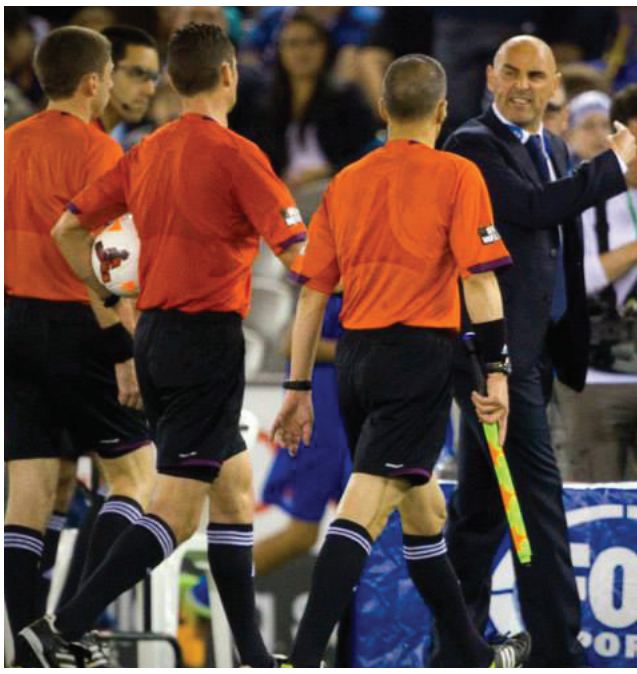
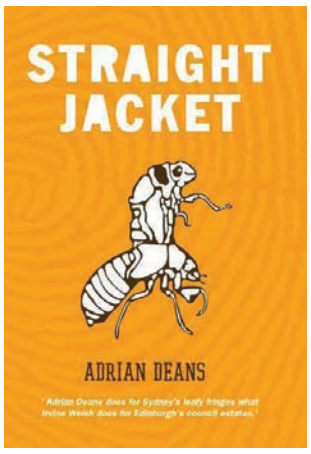
Photos: GREG SEATON, MICHAEL FARNELL, ANITA MILAS



Straight Jacket – A Very Naughty Lawyer Indeed

Readers of Goal Weekly will have seen occasional reference in these pages to Adrian Deans' football novel Mr Cleansheets. The book about an aging Australian goalkeeper playing in the English non-league and FA Cup competitions won Adrian plenty of fans, and those fans will be delighted to learn that his new book has just hit the shelves.

Goal Weekly recently spoke with Adrian (a regular contributor to GW) about his new novel and his embarrassment at being compared with Irvine Welsh.



Adrian Dean's new novel 'Straight Jacket' is now available from Readings Bookstores everywhere.

GW: Congratulations on the new book, but how did Mr Cleansheets finish up?
AD: It did pretty well. Cleansheets has been read by several thousand people and got some fantastic reviews. It gets referred to as a 'cult' book these days so I've got to be happy with that.

GW: Mr Cleansheets was a football novel, but the new one is about a lawyer. Are the two books linked in any way?
AD: Only indirectly. Obviously Mr C was about a footballer and there is plenty of football in the story, but it's actually a crime novel…a fairly unusual crime novel, in which the full scope of the story is only slowly revealed. Straight Jacket is another unusual crime novel, with some fairly black humour thrown in.

GW: So what's the basic gist of the story?
AD: Our hero is Morgen Tanjenz…a lawyer with an overactive sense of justice. His mission in life is to reward the virtuous, punish the ignorant and avenge those who won't avenge themselves. He refers to himself as a 'life sculptor' and pulls strings in the background to change the lives of strangers as he thinks they deserve.

GW: He sounds like a bit of a ratbag.
AD: Morgen is very much a ratbag but he's an amusing ratbag, and he's not the only one changing lives in the city. The story is also being told from the perspective of a detective in charge of a serial killer investigation.

GW: Aha! The plot thickens.
AD: It does, but the detective has problems of his own…his boss hates him, his deputy is trying to undermine him, and the woman he loves is having an affair. On the back cover it says: 'in the cicada-throbbing heat of a Sydney summer, the threads of a strange story tangle together in a wild conclusion no-one will see coming.'

GW: I was interested in the front cover. It compares Straight Jacket with Irvine Welsh. Are you a fan?
AD: I'm a huge fan of Irvine Welsh and that's an unbelievable (and probably undeserved) tribute. I was knocked out when I saw that but also a little concerned that I might be accused of copying his style. I don't think I do at all, but I'm probably least able to judge.

GW: I see another reviewer calls the book Australia's answer to American Psycho.
AD: Well, if it is, that's 100% coincidental because I've never read American Psycho…although it sounds intriguing.

GW: Can potential readers of Straight Jacket make any assumptions about the book based on a comparison with Irvine Welsh and Bret Easton Ellis?
AD: Probably. Straight Jacket is not for the faint-hearted. If made into a film it would definitely be rated R…frequent coarse language, sex and drugs, adult themes. Good wholesome family stuff…if your family's from Toxteth.

GW: So where can we get the book?
AD: You can get it from all good bookstores, but if it's not on the shelves demand to know why not! It's also available as an ebook through all the usual places.

GW: And when will we finally see the sequel to Mr Cleansheets?
AD: I get that question a lot. It is on the drawing board…I've mapped it all out and written some of the draft, but it's a big job and I tend to work on several things at once. Senor Cleansheets will hopefully see the light of day in 2015.

GW: Well good luck with it all Adrian. We loved Mr Cleansheets and expect Straight Jacket to be just as entertaining.

Straight Jacket is published by High Horse Books, distributed by Dennis Jones & Associates and is available in all good book stores. Ebook also available.

Goal! Weekly has 4 copies of Straight Jacket to give away.
To enter, simply answer the following question:
Which country will host the 2015 Asian Cup?
Send your answer to:
news@goalweekly.com

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Man Utd	5	3	2	0	11	3	+8	11
2 Shakhtar	5	2	2	1	7	5	+2	8
3 B Leverkusen	5	2	1	2	8	10	-2	7
4 Real Sociedad	5	0	1	4	1	9	-8	1

Bayer Leverkusen 0 - 5 Manchester United
Shakhtar Donetsk 4 - 0 Real Sociedad

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Real Madrid	5	4	1	0	18	5	+13	13
2 Juventus	5	1	3	1	9	8	+1	6
3 Galatasaray	5	1	1	3	7	14	-7	4
4 København	5	1	1	3	4	11	-7	4

Real Madrid 4 - 1 Galatasaray
Juventus 3 - 1 København

Group C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 PSG	5	4	1	0	15	3	+12	13
2 Olympiakos	5	2	1	2	7	7	+0	7
3 Benfica	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
4 Anderlecht	5	0	1	4	3	14	-11	1

Anderlecht 2 - 3 Benfica
PSG 2 - 1 Olympiakos Piraeus

Group D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 B München	5	5	0	0	15	2	+13	15
2 Man City	5	4	0	1	15	8	+7	12
3 CSKA Moskva	5	1	0	4	7	15	-8	3
4 Viktoria Plzen	5	0	0	5	4	16	-12	0

CSKA Moskva 1 - 3 Bayern München
Manchester City 4 - 2 Viktoria Plzen

Group E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Chelsea	5	3	0	2	11	3	+8	9
2 Basel	5	2	2	1	5	4	+1	8
3 Schalke 04	5	2	1	2	4	6	-2	7
4 Steaua Buch	5	0	3	2	2	9	-7	3

Basel 1 - 0 Chelsea o
Steaua Bucuresti 0 - 0 Schalke 04

Edinson Cavani scored late as Paris St-Germain booked their place in the last 16 of the Champions League with a 2-1 win over Group C rivals Olympiakos.

Gareth Bale struck as Real Madrid, who had Sergio Ramos sent off, sealed top spot in Group B with a 4-1 win over Turkish side Galatasaray.

Bayern Munich beat CSKA Moscow 3-1 to lead Group D by three points.

They will fight it out with Manchester City in the last round for top spot.

Manchester United sealed their place in the knockout stages of the Champions League with a 5-0 win at Bayer Leverkusen, who are in second spot in the Bundesliga.

Real Madrid were as impressive as Manchester United, recording a convincing win over Galatasaray while playing with 10 men for 65 minutes after defender Ramos was sent off for pulling down Umut Bulut.

Group F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Arsenal	5	4	0	1	8	3	+5	12
2 B Dortmund	5	3	0	2	9	5	+4	9
3 Napoli	5	3	0	2	8	9	-1	9
4 Marseille	5	0	0	5	4	12	-8	0

Arsenal 2 - 0 Olympique Mars…
Borussia Dortmund 3 - 1 Napoli

Group G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Atl Madrid	5	4	1	0	13	3	+10	13
2 Zenit	5	1	3	1	4	5	-1	6
3 Porto	5	1	2	2	4	5	-1	5
4 Aust Wien	5	0	2	3	1	9	-8	2

Porto 1 - 1 Austria Wien
Zenit 1 - 1 Atlético Madrid

Group H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Barcelona	5	3	1	1	10	4	+6	10
2 Milan	5	2	2	1	8	5	+3	8
3 Ajax	5	2	1	2	5	8	-3	7
4 Celtic	5	1	0	4	2	8	-6	3

Celtic 0 - 3 Milan
Ajax 2 - 1 Barcelona

Q&A with Vince Grella and Richard Garcia: Whatever it takes

The PFA Column

By Beau Busch

Playing in World Cups and facing the best players in the world in Europe's most demanding leagues was their dream. The PFA sat down with Vince Grella and Ritchie Garcia to discuss what its like to live the dream and what it took for them to succeed.

Q) **You both moved to Europe at a young age, Vince (VG) you moved to Empoli and Ritchie (RG) you to West Ham, how difficult was it to adapt?**

VG: It was very difficult in the first year but it was something that I always wanted to do and it was my dream so I had to take it with both hands.

RG: I was 15-16 at the time. It took quiet a while to adjust, not only to the pace but also the fact that you were training every day. I think I was quiet lucky that I went over at an age when I was quiet adjustable and maybe it was a bit easier because of that.

Q) You both made your debuts but then went through periods where you struggled to get into the first team consistently what was that time like?

RG: I had been on the bench and coming off the bench in the Premiership for West Ham but never really got a foothold in the team and I probably stayed a couple of years too long. I eventually went to Colchester in League One and that was big shock with the style of football and facilities but or me dropping down the leagues was something I had to do to make my way back up eventually.

VG: On the pitch the difficulty was consistent performance. I think at that stage, for that level I wasn't good enough to put together consistent performances. When you play as a young player and you perform people expect that and better and I found that very difficult at the start and a lot of times I was not able to meet those expectations.

Q) Eventually you both achieved your goals and established yourselves in the EPL and Serie A, how demanding was it too play at that level?

RG: It is very demanding on every aspect of your life. Family have to go through the ups and downs with you as well. Nobody sees the hard work it takes to get you there and to keep you there. I think the hard yards are the most important part rather than actually being there.

VG: Playing in Italy the pressure is massive and the expectation is there every single day. It is not just games but at training as well, the fans are there scrutinising everything you do.

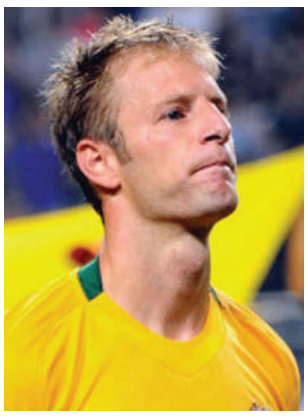
Q) In 2010 you were both part of the Socceroos squad for the World Cup how do you look back on the tournament?

RG: Personally it was fantastic, look it is the pinnacle of football. We did okay, we didn't set the world on fire. Since 2006 we had big expectations so that was added pressure but as a whole it was fantastic.

VG: The 2010 World Cup was different to the 2006 in that there was more expectation. The negative of the 2010 tournament was the unrealistic expectations on the team.

Q) The decision to return home and play in the A-League was one you both took last season what were the reasons behind it being the right time?

RG: I had my son and then my daughter and had always had it in my mind that once my son got to schooling age that I would come back and set my family up here. I also had the goal in my mind



Vince Grella

where I always wanted to come back when I still felt like I had something to give.

VG: The call come to join Melbourne and I thought it was my last crack at it. I wanted to come back and help to build something at the club but unfortunately my body wasn't able to anymore.

Q) Vince you retired just under a year ago what has the transition been like?

VG: I wanted to take a few months to spend some time with my family before I moved on to a new career. I then starting studying to acquire my FIFA player agents accreditation. My goal is help bring back the prestige of Australian footballers being successful in Europe. I want to see our top players playing in Europe rather than Asia and I want to help them to do that.

Ricahrd Garcia has been at the forefront of the SFC revolution

Q) What do you think is the key to your successful careers?

RG: That willingness to keep improving and the willingness to win. You have to have that all the time. All the top players I have played with or against were winners, it didn't matter if it was training or a reserves match, they wanted win everything.

VG: Persistence and determination are the keys for me. I had a fair few knocks in my younger years and a lot of people doubted my ability so for me it was all about persistence and determination.

ANC Quarter Finals take centre stage

The final group stage fixtures were played on the weekend and only one word could sum up the weekend's events…..WOW. What a weekend of ups and downs for All Nations competing. With each game, one nation was through, then a late goal would see them out. One group was even settled by the slimmest of margins – goals scored. Penalties were missed, chances were squandered, desperate defending, this weekend had it all, and 1,000 people came along to enjoy a weekend of outstanding football……and drama!!

Don't forget that you can follow the action and see the photos from the games on the Knox City FC website and Facebook page.

Gojko Ponjevic (Serbia) comes to the rescue of goalkeeper Bojo Tomic as he beats Bosnia's Adem Alicevic to the ball.

Mauritius 1 Albania 2

Portugal captain, Halil Gur, makes sure Ireland's Ruari Raylor doesn't get a chance to do any damage.

Semir Habibovic (Bosnia) goes down in a crowded midfield against Serbia.

Somalia 2-2 Chile

With Somalia reaching the quarter finals last year and Chile semi-finalists from the last campaign, both sides had struggled to repeat their form from last year. Chile had a chance to qualify with a win, but it was Somalia that applied the screws early on and in fact scored in the first minute of the game through Mohamed Ahmed. Somalia continued to put the pressure on and went 2-0 up on 9mins with a Nelson Salvatore strike. Chile were looking down the barrel. Chile refused to lie down and got a goal back through Joel Nicolic on 16mins. A tight second half was only broken when Chile made it 2-2 on 58mins through Billy Nats. This meant that Chile sat 2nd in the group with the final clash not until the Sunday. A nervous overnight wait for last years semi-finalists.

Man of the Match:
Alex Rojas (Chile)

Hungary 1-4 Seychelles

Hungary, this year's new entry and surprise packet were up against Seychelles who were coming off a 6-0 defeat the previous week, but were still pushing for a spot in the quarter finals and set about getting it from the first minute. No one could have predicted this result and Hungary struggled to find the previous weeks form as Seychelles played the better football, no more so than hat trick hero Shane Tacliaferdo and a single to Theo Papadopoulos and ran out 4-1 winners. This would make for nervous wait for Hungary, whose other group nations weren't playing until the last match of the day and with this result, the door was now open for Cyprus only needed to win by one goal to go through

Man of the Match:
Shane Tacliaferdo (Seychelles)

France 3-0 Romania

This group seems to have become the "group of death" with all 4 nations being very strong. France were looking to consolidate and take their place in the quarter finals, and Romania had struggled to get going so far this year. Both teams were out to prove that they belonged here, but it was France that put their foot on the pedal and gave themselves the chance to play in the quarter finals with strikes from Nordine Haddu, Gideon Sweet and Josh Kweifio-okai. Time would tell if they would indeed take their place

Man of the Match:
Alon Blumgart (France)

Scotland 3-1 Cyprus

Wow, what a game! With the earlier result in the group, Cyprus just needed to win by the odd goal to go through and only 3 mins in, they got their goal through Kemal Irdem. What happened during the remainder of the first half was incredible. At 1-0, Cyprus were through. Scotland then had a penalty awarded…. and missed it! To and fro, in the last minute of the first half another penalty to Scotland. Goalkeeper Stuart Webster stepped up….and missed. Half time score 1-0 and Cyprus were still through! Into the second half, and Scotland eventually broke the deadlock through Nate Foster. Another Scotland penalty, this time converted by Daniel Sweeney, with Wayne Gordon finishing this one off in the 63rd min

Man of the Match:
Nate Foster (Scotland)

Italy 0-2 Australia

Chile were sitting 2nd in this group with this game to go and their supporters in the stands watching on. Italy had been very strong in the opening two rounds and had become a lot of peoples favourites, but Australia obviously hadn't got the email! Needing to win by 2 goals, Sasa Vrancsevie scored his first of the day on 29mins to make it interesting. Unbelievably, Sasa grabbed a second in the 48th min to put Australia 2-0 up. A nervous last half an hour ensued, with desperate defending taking place. Italy brought on some of their big guns to try and arrest this one, but Australia managed to keep a clean sheet and at the final whistle, Australia had progressed on goals scored – the slimmest of margins -, leaving Chile to reflect on opportunities missed

Man of the Match: Peter Haleh-Gawa – Australia

Mauritius 1-2 Albania

Mauritius had their usual great support in tow, and Albania welcomed back some experience into their side to set this one up nicely. Both Nations pushing for a spot in the quarter finals and neither wanting to give much away. Shane Rexhepi opened the scoring for Albania in the 20th min, and they continued to turn the screws. Shortly after halftime Ibraim Ibraimi double the score for the Albanians setting a mighty task for Mauritius to came back from. But try they did and eventually got one back in the 56min to make it a nervous final 15mins. Albania though stuck firm, but still had to wait for the final group game to see if they would progress

Man of the Match:
Bujar Thaqi (Albania)

Bosnia 2-3 Serbia

A big crowd had assembled during the course of the day, and no-one was leaving before this one! Bosnia needed to win, and a draw would see Serbia progress. A tight contest ensued for the early part and at halftime, scores were locked at 0-0. Serbia came out in the second half and went bang going 1-0 up through Velibor Mitrovic, then on 49mins Serbia went 2-0 up through Milos Lujic. Bosnia were down and out…..or were they? Just after the hour, Bosnia's Hidaset Masinovic made it 2-1 and then with 2 mins to go Juso Juladzija made it 2-2. Don't tell me…..this one was going down to the wire, and then in the final minute, man of the match Milos Lujic grabbed his 2nd of the day for Serbia to make it 3-2. The crowd that had made the effort to stay certainly got their money's worth with this one, a thrilling encounter indeed!!

Man of the Match:
Milos Lujic (Serbia)

Portugal 2-2 Ireland

The final match of the weekend, with injury and suspension testing the depth of the Ireland squad, and Portugal playing for their place in the quarters. Could this one live up to the previous game? Yes it could and did. Ireland needed a draw to top their group and avoid a Scotland clash in the quarters and Portugal just needed a win. It was Ireland that opened the scoring in the 18th min with Daryl Warriner netting, but 11mins later Portugal drew level through Paul McEvoy. Portugal then went 2-1 up on th 37th min with a Kenjok Athiu strike. Portugal were through on this score line, but Ireland forgot to follow the script and with 10min remaining drew level themselves with Daryl Warriner grabbing his second of the day. It was a long final 10mins in which neither nation could break through, and the score remained at 2-2 which meant that Portugal had fallen short, and it was Albania that qualified 2nd out of this group.

Man of the Match:
Kenjok Athiu (Portugal)

This weekend is quarter final weekend, and with the fixtures in front of us, it will be a weekend not to be missed. Knock out from here on in and the prospect of golden goal extra time and penalties to decide each and every game, it will be enthralling from the first to the final whistle over both days.

This Weekends Fixtures

Quarter Finals
Saturday 30th November
1pm Italy v France
3pm Ireland v Hungary
Sunday 1st December
1pm Serbia v Australia
3pm Scotland v Albania

Final Group Standings

Group 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	3	3	0	0	7	3	+4 9
France	3	2	1	0	5	2	+3 6
Bosnia	3	1	2	0	6	5	-1 3
Romania	3	0	3	0	1	6	-5 0

Group 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	2	0	1	9	1	+8 4
Hungary	3	1	1	1	2	4	-2 4
Seychelles	3	1	1	1	5	8	-3 4
Cyprus	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3 1

Group 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ireland	3	1	0	2	6	3	+3 5
Albania	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2 4
Portugal	3	0	0	3	3	3	0 3
Mauritius	3	0	1	2	2	3	-1 2

Group 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	2	0	0	4	0	+4 6
Australia	3	1	1	1	5	4	+1 4
Chile	3	1	1	1	4	5	+1 4
Somalia	3	0	1	2	4	6	-2 2

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Castro does it again; Vipers drop points to close gap at the top

Men's NIKE V-League

To kick off the men's side Fitzroy took on bottom placed Albert Park who they expected to take maximum points from, and they did just that with a commanding 11-3 win Captain Alistair Dunlop and star Brazilian Fernando De Moraes both bagging hat tricks in the comfortable win.

Next up Pascoe Vale took on Mickleham in who sat second bottom it looked another walk in the park and for much of the game it was until a late fight back from Mickleham saw them just go down 8-6. Robert Armellini bagged a hat trick as he also claimed the man of the match award but it was no walk in the park. Following two mismatches we were in for a treat

When Metropolitan took on an undefeated Vic Vipers side in a game which closely contested much throughout Metro star man Juso Julardzija was the difference his brace coming at a crucial time to kill off the Vipers and hand them a first defeat of the season, Special mention to Metro keeper Michael Chami who was awarded the man of the match award.

Last game of the night pitted a struggling Hume against a rejuvenated Ashburton this one by far the match of the day as they fought it out until the dying seconds with the game locked at 2-2 the leagues top scorer Ricardo Castro scored a late winner to give Ashburton full points on the night and end a brilliant day of Futsal.

Women's PEPSI WPL

To kick off the Women's side of things undefeated Melbounre Uni took on bottom placed Heidelberg and you can only imagine the outcome an 11-0 beating from Melbourne showed they are the deal with stars Marcela Marques bagging 5 and Letizia Sammut 4 respectively as they both gained Player of the game awards.

Next up saw a struggling Vipers side take on Richmond and it was Richmond who were expected to win this one and they did comfortably defeating their struggling rivals 5-1 Azize Erenli starring with a hat trick and captain Melinda Aloisio bagged a brace as she also picked up Player Of The Game.

Third clash of the night saw last season's Champions Pascoe Vale take on a young and in form Fitzroy and it was Fitzroy who dominated an understrength lions side leading 2-0 for much of the game before Pascoe pulled on back late but it was never going to be enough, Player Of The Game went to Fitzroy keeper Meri Mitkovski who had a brilliant game between the sticks for her side.

Final clash of the card saw a confident EFA Eagles side take on understrength Ashburton and it was the eagles that stamped their authority and overran their opponents winning 6-2 with first gamer Georgia Alberti's hat trick gaining her the Player of the game award and guided her side out of the bottom 2.

Melbourne Uni's five goal hero Marcella Marques (11) celebrates a second half goal with team mate Grace Kim.

Metro's X-Factor Juso Julardzija was on his game yet again and punches the air after his second goal to finish off the Vipers.

Ashburton swarm match winner Ricardo Castro (floor) After his late winner against Hume

Pascoe Vale's man of the match Robbie Armellini scores his third past keeper Steve Castvan with a very tidy placement.

Futsal Oz Scoreboard

Results

PEPSI Women's V-League Premiership
Friday 29th November
7:30pm - Richmond vs Melb Uni FC
8:15pm - EFA Eagles vs Pascoe Vale
9:00pm - Ashburton FC vs Vic Vipers
9:45pm - Fitzroy FC vs Heidelberg FC

NIKE Men's V-League Premiership
1st December
5:00pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs Vic Vipers
6:00pm - Mickleham FC vs Ashburton
7:00pm - Albert Park FC vs Hume FC
8:00pm - Metropolitan FC vs Fitzroy FC

Next Week's Clashes

PEPSI WV-League
Friday 29th November
7:30pm - Richmond vs Melb Uni FC
8:15pm - EFA Eagles vs Pascoe Vale
9:00pm - Ashburton FC vs Vic Vipers
9:45pm - Fitzroy FC vs Heidelberg FC

NIKE Men V-League Premiership
1st December
5:00pm - Pascoe Vale FC vs Vic Vipers
6:00pm - Mickleham FC vs Ashburton
7:00pm - Albert Park FC vs Hume FC
8:00pm - Metropolitan FC vs Fitzroy

Top Goal Scorers

Mens
1. Ricardo Castro - Ashburton FC - 17
2. Adam Cooper - Vic Vipers FC - 15
3. Juso Julardzija - Metropolitan - 15
4. Sofiane Soufi - Pascoe Vale FC - 15
5. Lucas Kruel - Pascoe Vale FC - 12

Women's
1. Marcela Marques - Melb Uni - 22
2. Letizia Sammut - Melb Uni FC - 12
3. Christine Duffy - Pascoe Vale FC - 9
4. Ili Jakab - Pascoe Vale FC - 8
5. Sarah Richardson - Pascoe Vale - 7

Standings

NIKE V-LEAGUE Premiership

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Vic Vipers FC	10	9	1	0	0	60	35	+25	27
2 Pascoe Vale FC	10	8	2	0	0	64	30	+34	24
3 Fitzroy FC	10	7	2	0	1	55	36	+19	22
4 Metropolitan FC	10	6	3	0	1	68	47	+21	19
5 Ashburton FC	10	4	4	0	2	48	48	+0	14
6 Hume FC	10	2	6	0	2	48	46	+2	8
7 Mickleham FC	10	1	9	0	0	40	78	-38	3
8 Albert Park FC	10	0	10	0	0	27	90	-63	0

Pepsi Womens WV-LEAGUE

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Melbourne Uni FC	8	8	0	0	0	57	9	+48	24
2 F.C Richmond	7	5	1	0	1	43	22	+21	16
3 Fitzroy FC	8	5	3	0	0	25	37	-12	15
4 Pascoe Vale FC	7	4	3	0	0	37	12	+25	12
5 Ashburton FC	7	2	4	0	1	25	44	-19	7
6 EFA Eagles	7	2	5	0	0	21	36	-15	6
7 Vic Vipers FC	8	1	5	0	2	21	34	-13	5
8 Heidelberg FC	8	1	7	0	0	13	48	-35	3

State League Championship

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 CF Brunswick	10	9	0	0	1	69	37	+32	28
2 Moreland F.C	10	6	3	0	1	59	43	+16	19
3 FC Balwyn	9	6	3	0	0	57	38	+19	18
4 FC Carlton	9	3	3	0	3	44	36	+8	12
5 FC Melbourne	10	4	6	0	0	54	48	+6	12
6 Brimbank FC	10	3	5	0	2	54	75	-21	11
7 FC Northcote	9	3	5	0	1	35	44	-9	10
8 FC Essendon	9	0	9	0	0	23	74	-51	0

State League One

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 FC Collingwood	10	8	2	0	0	48	23	+25	24
2 Brighton FC	10	7	1	0	2	53	27	+26	23
3 FC Prahran	10	5	2	0	3	49	34	+15	18
4 CF South Melb	10	5	4	0	1	44	40	+4	16
5 FC Hawthorn	10	4	5	0	1	43	37	+6	13
6 Toorak FC	10	4	5	0	1	32	39	-7	13
7 Coburg Athletic	10	2	8	0	0	28	57	-29	6
8 F.C Footscray	10	1	9	0	0	32	72	-40	3

State League Two

	P	W	L	B	D	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Doncaster FC	10	9	1	0	0	48	26	+22	27
2 FC Preston	10	8	2	0	0	44	31	+13	24
3 FC Richmond	10	5	5	0	0	50	56	-6	15
4 Mcleod FC	10	4	4	0	2	47	46	+1	14
5 FC Geelong	10	4	5	0	1	64	39	+25	13
6 EFA Eagles	10	3	6	0	1	42	48	-6	10
7 FC St Kilda	10	3	7	0	0	40	54	-14	9
8 Elsternwick FC	10	2	8	0	0	33	45	-12	6

EFA Eagles captain Maddie Stockdale celebrates with debutant Georgia Alberti (15) after she completed her hat trick.

Welcome to FUTSAL OZ Our Programs

Social League competitions
• Men's & Women's Social Leagues
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
• Mixed Social Leagues
Create a team with men & women (min 2 women)
• Junior Leagues (boys & girls)
(5 to 18 year olds)
Create a team for fun weekly scheduled matches
• Elite Leagues (boys & girls)
Only for elite players –

Training
• Social League training
for teams & individuals – improve skills & fitness, including goal keeper training
• Elite training
high level training includes goal keeper training
• Junior training
from beginners to elite
(see 'ALL Juniors – Boys & Girls 'from 2 years to 16 years of age')

Juniors
• Preschool program
Fun way to start the ball rolling during school hours
(1 to 5 year olds)
• Junior Oz Clinics
Beginners introduction to Futsal
(3 to 9 years old)
• School Holiday Program
Every school holidays Futsal all day training & games
• Social Junior Leagues
Create a team, for fun weekly scheduled matches
(Mixed boys & Girls)

Elite Juniors
• Futsal training
INNER City FC for teams & individuals– skills, tactics & match (twice a week + match)
• Elite Futsal League
Join an elite Club, elite skills, technic, tactics & fitness, includes representative squads interstate and overseas tournaments.
• Elite Futsal training
high level training includes goal keeper training

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Photos: ADAM BUTLER

SFC and Victory taste defeat

Tomasz Ng

This past weekend of action in the National Youth League saw some upsets, with early pacesetters Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory defeated, while Perth Glory finally got their first win of the season.

Sydney FC had won the first four rounds of the season and looked good in doing so, but they happened to come up against a pumped up Brisbane Roar side, who had played well to start the season but were without luck in terms of results.

Brisbane made the most of a great first half and raced into a 3-0 lead within 35 minutes, through a goal from Diogo Ferreira and an impressive brace from Brandon Boriello.

With a proud record to defend, last week's hat trick hero Mitch Mallia did his best to claw the match back for Sydney.

He scored a goal with sheer pace, beating the defence and rounding the keeper to reduce the deficit, then captain Jacob Tratt scored a penalty to make it 3-2.

In the end Sydney were unable to complete their comeback, meaning Brisbane secured their second win of the season.

Another side unlucky with results this season has been last season's runner-up Central Coast Mariners.

Their bad start to the season was compounded this week, losing to Perth Glory who were without a point going into this contest.

The home side put in a much improved performance as they regained some respect following an embarrassing start to the season so far.

Brandon O'Neill had a good afternoon, and kick started proceedings with a penalty in the 23rd minute, while Harry O'Brien double the advantage 15 minutes later.

The Mariners had their chances to score too but were unable to convert them and slumped to the foot of the table with this 2-0 loss.

Having smashed six past Perth last round, Newcastle Jets repeated the dose on the AIS, avenging their 2-0 loss in Canberra back in Round 1.

The Institute side have had an impressive start to the season, and seemed to continue that by scoring the first goal of the contest.

But it was the Jets who then kicked on, with James Virgili putting on an impressive performance, helping Newcastle to a 3-1 lead at half time with a brace.

Anthony Kalik continued his fine start to the season, grabbing a goal back for the AIS on two occasions, but Kale Bradbery, Virgili and Joey Gibbs scored to ensure that the Jets ran out 6-3 winners on the day.

The fixture list doesn't get easier for the AIS, who now face Western Sydney Wanderers fresh off a morale boosting 3-1 win over Melbourne Heart.

Goals to Lawrence Hanna, Joshua Barresi and Jaushua Sotirio were enough to see the Wanderers bounce back from a difficult 4-1 loss to Melbourne Victory in Round 4, and secure their first win of the season.

Things started well for Heart, with Hernan Espindola grabbing an early goal, but they failed to kick on as the Wanderers kicked on, dominating the rest of the contest.

Heart will have to show a lot more improvement if they are to get back to their winning ways from the first two weeks, and next up for them is Adelaide United.

The Reds caused the last upset of the round, beating high fliers Melbourne Victory 2-1 at Thebarton Oval.

Victory were not at their usual best in this match, and despite going ahead through Francesco Stella, they were finding it difficult against a hardworking Adelaide outfit.

Ryan Kitto and Anthony Costa scored either side of the break for the Reds, just rewards for Adelaide's endeavours on the day.

Victory had attempts late on in the game, but Jimmy Jeggo and Andrew Nabbout, who were in hot form heading into this match were unable to turn things around, with Victory succumbing to their first defeat of the season.

Next weekend sees Sydney FC square off against Melbourne Victory as both sides look to get back to winning ways and secure top spot on the ladder.

Adeliade Utd are on their way to inflicting Melbourne Victor'ys first defeat of the season thanks to an opening goal by Ryan Kito (10)

Results

Adelaide United 2
(Ryan Kitto 45, Anthony Costa 57)
Melbourne Victory 1
(Francesco Stella 36)

Perth Glory 2
(O'Neill 23p, O'Brien 37)
Central Coast 0

Western Sydney Wanderers 3
(Hanna 18, Barresi 62, Sotirio 80)
Melbourne Heart 1 (Espindola 1)

Newcastle Jets 6
(Virgili 12, 17, 73, Oxborrow 20, Bradbery 60, Gibbs 90+3pen)
AIS 3 (Smith 12, Kalik 57, 75)

Brisbane Roar 3 (Diogo FERREIRA 21', Brandon BORRELLO 28',35')
Sydney FC 2 (Mitchell MALLIA 52', Jacob TRATT 77(p)') 12)

NYL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Sydney FC	5	4	0	1	13	6	7	12
2 Melbourne Victory	5	3	1	1	14	7	7	10
3 Newcastle Jets	5	3	0	2	14	8	6	9
4 Brisbane Roar	5	2	2	1	11	9	2	8
5 Adelaide United	5	2	2	1	6	7	-1	8
6 AIS	5	2	1	2	12	13	-1	7
7 Melbourne Heart	5	2	1	2	5	7	-2	7
8 Wanderers	5	1	1	3	6	10	-4	4
9 Perth Glory	5	1	0	4	5	15	-10	3
10 Mariners	5	0	2	3	3	7	-4	2

Next Round

Saturday 30 November
Mariners v Newcastle Jets
Centre of Excellence, Tuggerah
KO 10:30AM

Saturday 30 November
Melbourne Heart v Adelaide United
Epping Soccer Stadium
KO 2:00PM

Saturday, 30 November
AIS v Wanderers
AIS Grass 2
KO 3:00PM

Sunday 1 December
Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory
Goodwin Park
KO 11:30 AM

Sunday 1 December
Sydney FC v Melbourne Victory
Cromer Park
KO 3:00PM

Jordan Brown (Victory) and Jacob Melling (Adelaide) do a great impression of a helicopter

Frandesco Stella makes no mistake with the spot-kick for Melbourne Victory.

It's handshakes all around for Adelaide players at the final whistle

The Forty Somethings Shine In The Twilight

Latin Wrap

Francis Fields

At next year's World Cup in Brazil, history can repeat in terms of the oldest goalkeeper to be selected and ultimately play at a FIFA World Cup.

With Italy's legendary Dino Zoff holding the record, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed Al Deayea and our very own Mark Schwarzer nearly reaching the milestone also, it is Colombia's Faryd Mondragón who will celebrate his 43rd birthday during the group phase of the tournament.

If selected by coach José Pekerman, he will be set to become the oldest player as backup to first choice David Ospina. He featured two weeks ago in the FIFA calendar friendly against Belgium in Brussels and the Netherlands in Amsterdam.

Ospina himself, playing in France's Ligue One with Nice has credited Mondragón's presence as an important factor during the long road of qualifying through South America's CONMEBOL zone group with Colombia finishing impressively in second spot.

The worldly known coffee-making nation returns to the World Cup for the first time since 1998, coincidentally in France where Mondragón started in all three group matches with strong performances. After spending most of his club football career outside his native country, mainly in Europe - both goalkeepers have spoken about their common denominator - Deportivo Cali.

After almost 19 years playing overseas, Mondragón has decided to return home where it all started. He is a club member and played his development youth football there as well.

Having admitted to being greatly appreciative of the club's board of directors for welcoming him in, he still finds the motivation upon waking up in the morning for training. After all, it is Deportivo Cali where his true love lies and has influenced him greatly. Being a part of the Colombian national team setup is a reflection to his dedication, longevity at the professional level and a healthy eating diet.

Cruzeiro with Júlio Baptista playing a crucial role have won the Brazilian 2013 championship

The love and passion for football shines with his experience. Having guarded between the sticks for various clubs across Colombia and Argentina, abroad in Europe with Real Zaragoza in Spain, for Metz in France, in Turkey with Galatasaray where he is very much loved and for FC Koln in the German Bundesliga, the Colombian of Lebanese descent was recently playing in the USA for the Philadelphia Union in the MLS.

The main role for him is to still be a top-level player with vast experience, it is also his duty to talk, give opinions, and to be very aware of any circumstances that might be avoided at international level. Colombia have admitted to performing and doing things that have gone badly in the past at the World Cup, especially during the Italy 1990 and USA 1994 tournaments so they will certainly expect that not to be repeated. With the qualifying round a very difficult competition, especially with the marathon 18-match round-robin, the Colombians will return next year to a World Cup after sixteen years.

It will be wonderful and exciting to see Colombia in the World Cup, with such youth and excitement commanded up front by Radamel Falcao and Mondragón expected to play a part in the squad. He has admitted it shall be a privilege to be able to see the big screen in the stadium, singing the national anthem and defending his country's shirt in a World Cup. That is certainly an experience to be fully prepared and relish for many years to come.

When asked by several journalists about what to do when he decides to hang up his gloves, Mondragón was emphatic. Taking up work in television commentating on football although he has hinted to not thinking about it too much and continue training hard as an active player.

CRUZEIRO BRASILEIRAO CHAMPIONS

This year's Brazilian national league season has been unpredictable and unusual, and in many ways the table has been turned upside-down. The giant clubs, teams who are regulars at the top are wary of relegation for instance and newly promoted sides are competing for places in next season's continental cups as they look for a top 4 finish.

Cruzeiro have been crowned champions claiming their third league championship, having previously won the national competition in 1966, and ten years ago when they won it convincingly by 13 points in 2003. They're similarly ahead this season, having opened up an unexpected 12 point lead with seven games to go.

The sides promoted from Série B in 2012 have been amongst the most surprising and impressive teams in the division this year. Apart from Criciúma who are second from bottom, these promoted sides currently sit in the top half of the table, with Vitória, Atletico Paranaense, and Goiás still in with a realistic chance of finishing in the top four.

Eyes on the ball and on a third World Cup for Colombia's Faryd Mondragón

Conversely, the traditionally more successful sides such as São Paulo, Santos, Corinthians, Flamengo, and last season's champions Fluminense are looking over their shoulder at a possible relegation battle. Fluminense lie level on points with four times champions Vasco da Gama on the cusp of the relegation zone, and there's a real chance that the 2013 champions could be relegated this season.

On top of this, one of the most successful clubs in the history of the Brazilian league, São Paulo club Palmeiras, spent the 2013 season in the second division of Brazilian football. They look set to bounce back up after their a season in Série B, a league which they have experienced before, as they currently enjoy a 9 point lead over second place Chapecoense. The club from Chapecó are another one of the surprise packages, in a Brazilian football season jam-packed with drama.

On the other hand, struggling Ponte Preta are battling in the bottom places yet are in the semi finals of the Copa Sudamericana.

This type of shift in the make-up of domestic league football is rarer in European competitions, as you often get a cluster of clubs who dominate the top ends of the league season after season. In South America, however, the applecart can be upset. Two seasons ago last year, the most successful club in Argentinian football, Buenos Aries giants River Plate, spent the season in the second division for the first time in their history.

This unpredictability has made for an exciting yet strange season in Brazil's top flight, with many fans rejoicing and also frustrated in the fact that the bigger clubs are experiencing some of the anguish that they have to endure on a more regular basis. There's a real chance that one of the big Rio or São Paulo based clubs in Fluminense and Vasco da Gama could be relegated, and this will make for an intriguing end to the season in the bottom half of the league.

ALL WHITES LOOK TO THE FUTURE

By Joe Gallagher in NZ

A comprehensive victory – 9-3 on aggregate – sees Mexico qualify for the World Cup in Brazil next June at the expense of New Zealand.

Mexican coach Miguel Herrera's decision to select a raft of players from his Club America side at the cost of some of the nation's European-based stars paid off, but the All Whites could scarcely get anything right across the two legs.

It would have taken a miracle – no, two miracles – for the All Whites to qualify for Brazil ahead of El Tri and unfortunately this time, luck was not on Ricki Herbert's side.

The dizzying highs of the 2010 World Cup are now a distant memory, but in truth they had begun to fade some time ago as the All Whites suffered defeat in the Oceania Nations Cup against New Caledonia last year.

The writing was on the wall.

Not much was going right for Herbert as his side lined up for the first leg in Mexico City a fortnight ago. He was without his inspirational captain Winston Reid due to injury, hamstrung in the midfield, forced to juggle the return of attacking duo Marco Rojas and Shane Smeltz from injuries of their own, was dealt a handful of players walking a tightrope as far as suspension is concerned and was ultimately let down by a lack of preparation offered by his employers at New Zealand Football.

Chris James scores for the All Whites against Mexico.

It showed. New Zealand were outclassed, carrying a 5-1 deficit back to Wellington for a match in which Herbert's hopes for a second successive World Cup finals appearance were all but extinguished.

Herbert was hung out to dry by the media in the following week. Perhaps it was warranted; his selection of the unattached pair of Tony Lochhead and Jeremy Christie was questionable at best, and his decision to rest Smeltz and Rojas eventually came back to bite him. But he was damned if he did and damned if he didn't.

There is yet to emerge a genuine option to partner Michael McGlinchey in midfield and it would have been a risky move indeed to have offered a debut to 20-year-old Mariners talent Storm Roux in the back four.

It would be immensely harsh to place blame on either Christie or Lochhead for the loss in Mexico.

Where Herbert was lacking was in his approach. His tactics – call them pragmatic, or call them negative – which served him so well in South Africa three years ago came disastrously unstuck.

End of an era for Ricki Herbert

The All Whites all too willingly gave up possession in that first leg. Content to sit back in lines of five and four, Herbert was always flirting with danger. On this occasion it hurt him.

That the tie was so comprehensively lost after the first leg perhaps provided much-needed injection of energy for the return in Wellington.

Herbert, who curiously placed his players on a media ban as they arrived back at Wellington Airport that Saturday, announced on the afternoon prior to the match that he would resign as All Whites coach at the conclusion of the campaign. He was forced to play an uncharacteristically attacking line-up and offer starts to Roux, Smeltz, Rojas, Bill Tuiloma and Chris James, the sole goalscorer from the first leg.

It gave a record crowd in Wellington something to cheer as the return match was entertaining, if not the tense encounter that had been hoped.

Despite falling 3-0 down to an Oribe Peralta hat-trick in the first half, the home side rallied, and were within touching distance in the final ten minutes after a pair of goals to James and Rory Fallon, the hero of four years earlier against Bahrain.

They were undone at the back and conceded a 4-2 loss in the capital, but it was a vast improvement from what transpired in Mexico and offered a glimpse of what could be if New Zealand Football can appropriately harness the All Whites' future.

Herbert's national coaching career ended in quite unspectacular fashion, he left the ground at full time quietly amongst groups of departing Mexicans, All Whites and officials.

It was quite the contrast to the picture of arrogance and egocentrism that had been painted of the Kiwi coach in the media the preceding week.

It's tough to take any positives from a four-year campaign that saw the All Whites miss out on both the Confederations Cup and World Cup; undoubtedly the two targets for New Zealand Football.

But therein lies the hope – if New Zealand Football can discard the desire to seek 'positives' from its failures and look itself seriously in the mirror, it might stand a chance at improvement.

There was certainly Kiwi talent on display throughout the two legs. It just needs an opportunity to flourish.

Photos: GEORGE MARIN

Matildas edge China to claim series

By John Greco

The Matildas have completed a clean-sweep of their friendly series against China after a gritty 2-1 win at Pirtek Stadium on Wednesday night.

Australia looked in complete control on home soil as a goal in either half to Lisa De Vanna and Emily van Egmond had Hesterine De Reus' troops 2-0 up inside the hour mark.

China threatened a comeback late on, with substitute Ying Li scoring from the penalty spot 17 minutes from time to set up a tense finish in Parramatta.

But that was as close as the visitors would get with the Matildas holding on for a well-deserved victory just four days after their 2-0 success over China in Wollongong.

While it was far from a polished performance from the Australians, there were plenty of positive signs with goalkeeper Lydia Williams hardly tested behind a well-organised defence.

Striker Michelle Heyman was also a handful in attack playing a vital role in both of the Matildas goals.

Eager to make amends from their defeat on Sunday, China started with more intent but it was the Matildas who manufactured the first chance on 14 minutes.

Tameka Butt won a free-kick just inside China's half and quickly released van Egmond down the right.

Emily van Egmond's effort flashes past the Chinese keeper and into the net.

The classy midfielder played in a dangerous cross to the near post where Heyman was waiting but she couldn't direct her header on goal.

The home side were struggling to get recently-crowned Australian Female Footballer of the Year De Vanna into the game, with the Chinese defence quick to close down the fleet-footed striker whenever she got possession.

But De Vanna made a telling contribution on the half hour from the Matildas' first corner of the night.

Heyman rose highest to divert Katrina-Lee Gorry's centre towards goal, with De Vanna on hand just two metres from goal to flick the ball past stranded Chinese goalkeeper Yue Zhang.

It was the 29-year-old's 31st goal for her in 82 international appearances for Australia and gave the hosts a deserved lead at the break.

China's best chance came just three minutes into the second half when Li was left all alone in the middle but the striker headed narrowly wide of Williams' goal.

And just nine minutes later the Matildas doubled their lead.

Heyman worked some space on the edge of the box and her shot-come-cross rolled perfectly into the path of van Egmond who clinically side-footed home at the far post.

The visitors gave themselves hope when Li coolly slotted home a penalty after Clare Polkinghorne was adjudged to have handled in the area.

But there would be no late comeback with the Matildas comfortably seeing out the result, giving themselves some confidence as they build towards defending their title at next May's AFC Women's Asian Cup tournament.

Rd 2 Results

Canberra United 2 (Michelle Heyman 25, Stephanie Ochs 41)
Western Sydney Wanderers 0

Perth Glory 0
Brisbane Roar 3 (Butt 3, Polkinghorne 63, Chapman 83)

Sydney FC 4 (Rollason 45, Kerr 68, Taylor 80, 89)
Newcastle Jets 0

Adelaide United 0
Melbourne Victory 2
(De Vanna 40p, Friend 59)

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	P
1 Sydney FC	2	2	0	0	9	1	8	6
2 Canberra United	2	2	0	0	5	0	5	6
3 Perth Glory	2	1	0	1	5	5	0	3
4 Brisbane Roar	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
5 Melbourne Victory	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
6 Adelaide United	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
7 Wanderers	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
8 Newcastle Jets	2	0	0	2	2	9	-7	0

Next Round

Sat 30 Nov 13 3:00pm
Adelaide United Vs Newcastle Jets
Burton Park

Sun 1 Dec 13 12:00pm
Perth Glory Vs Melbourne Victory
nib Stadium

Sun 1 Dec 13 3:00pm
Wanderers Vs Brisbane Roar
Marconi Stadium

Laura Alleway blocks a cross from her Chinese counterpart.

Emily van Egmond is all smiles after getting on the scoresheet

Match Details

Australia 2 (Lisa De Vanna 30', Emily van Egmond 57')
China 1 (Ying Li 74' pen)

Australia: 18. Lydia Williams (gk); 16. Steph Catley, 3. Kim Carroll, 4. Clare Polkinghorne, 5. Laura Alleway; 13. Tameka Butt (9. Haley Raso 84'), 8. Elise Kellond-Knight, 19. Katrina Gorry (7. Collette McCallum 33'); 11. Lisa De Vanna, 10. Emily van Egmond, 23. Michelle Heyman (14. Ashleigh Sykes 77')

Substitutes: 21. Eliza Campbell (gk), 2. Emma Checker, 12. Vedrana Popovic, 15. Amy Chapman, 22. Nicole Sykes.
Yellow Cards: Nil

Attendance: 1,657

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MATE DUGANDZIC

MELBOURNE HEART FC

Photo: LIVE PIXEL

Barclays Premier League

Andrew Bishara

Merseyside Thriller

Pre-match, Everton manager Roberto Martinez, said that the Merseyside derby could be a "special one". His reasoning was that the sides' fluent styles of football means that a great spectacle was on the cards.

His Liverpool counterpart, Brendan Rodgers felt the same, believing that him and Martinez are from the "same bottle".

"We have that same belief of dominating the ball and controlling the game with the football, rather than without it," he said.

"Controlling the game, but not conceding too many."

They were right on every account: this Merseyside derby was one of the best in years.

A six-goal thriller saw Liverpool take the lead twice, before Everton drew level then took the lead themselves, before finally the Reds secured a draw. 3-3 the final score and it was a breathtaking game - both sides pushing for the win till the very last minute.

The game was no more than five minutes old when Phillippe Countinho opened the scoring for the Reds, when left completely alone in the box. Five minutes later, Everton's Kevin Mirallas restored parity.

The Premier League's most controversial figure, Luiz Suarez then decided to turn on the heat with a stunning free-kick to give Liverpool the lead.

With 20 minutes left, Chelsea-loanee, Romelu Lukaku scored twice - drawing Everton level, then giving them the lead. Before finally, Daniel Sturridge snatch Liverpool a point when he scored in the 88 minute.

In between all that, there was pushing and shoving, taunts and teasing, and wild tackles galore, including one which Mirallas collected Suarez in the knee - a dangerous tackle, which surprisingly did not result in a red card that many expected.

Unsurprisingly, both Martinez and Rodgers saw the result differently.

"End-to-end attacking football is what you want to see, with 11 players against 11, but Mirallas should have been sent off," Rodgers said. "The challenge was a really bad one, you could end a player's career jumping in like that."

Martínez thought the referee got it right. "It was a typical striker's tackle," he said.

"I can see why Liverpool wanted a red card – had it been against one of my players I would probably feel the same – but it was not malicious and I think the referee took the emotions of a derby into account. He allowed the game to be played."

All in all, the game was one of the most pulsating so far this season, with each side determined to play attacking football and go out for the win. Sometimes derbies become stale affairs; with one team more interested in consolidating a lead or a point (look at Manchester United versus Arsenal and how dull that game became). This was different; it was great, it was fun and a draw was a fair result for both teams.

However, Martinez believed that side deserved the points after it threw away the winning lead.

"We were magnificent in terms of the chances we created. Simon Mignolet was man of the match and rightly so," he said.

But we're really disappointed to concede three goals from dead-ball situations. I thought we controlled the game well and they didn't have a shot on target from open play in the first half."

EPL Preview.

Before his side was set to travel to Etihad Stadium to play Manchester City, Tottenham boss Andre Villas-Boas openly declared that his Spurs were no longer in the title race.

"The title is not for Tottenham, so we're pretty comfortable,' said the Portuguese.

"We've have a minimum objective of Champions League qualification and we are one point from fourth place.

"There are teams that are more experienced than us coming back strongly; Manchester City and Manchester United," he said.

"The champions made a change to their fortunes and are looking strong now and I expect Chelsea to come back into the frame and improve their results as well.

"At the moment, we're not distracted by that conversation."

Following his side's catastrophic 6-0 loss to Manchester City, you could say that he was right: Tottenham are no longer in the title race, especially if it performs like that.

Villas-Boas was straight after the game, admitting that he and his players should feel "ashamed" with their performance.

But the Spurs manager did say there was a positive: they can redeem themselves when they face Manchester United this weekend.

It should promise to be an interesting clash, with the reigning champions sitting sixth on the table, on 21 points, one point ahead of Spurs. But both sides are now well off the pace from league leaders Arsenal; the only difference being that United still harbour title ambitions.

Even if they made it harder for themselves, after dropping two valuable points in the 2-2 draw with Cardiff City. The game was in the bag, until the Bluebird's Kim Bo-kyung scored in injury time to share the points.

United boss, David Moyes said it was "silly" that his side dropped the points.

"I am very disappointed we didn't take three points. Cardiff made a game of it and put us under pressure. But Danny Welbeck had a brilliant chance to make it 3-1," he said.

"We gave away a silly free-kick which led to their second goal and didn't defend it well enough."

The game though had a hint of controversy in it, when Wayne Rooney lashed out and kicked Cardiff midfielder Jordan Mutch behind play.

The referee gave Rooney a yellow card, but pundits thought it was fortunate that he was still on the pitch.

Regardless, it looks like Rooney will play this weekend against Spurs, which could prove to be a massive week for the both sides; any more dropped points and they could be out of the title race for good.

Spurs are already eight points behind Arsenal, and while Villas-Boas has stressed that they are not in the race, they would not want to fall behind in the race for the top four, with this year, being particularly tight.

For United, they are seven points behind and it seems that all the good work they did in beating Arsenal a fortnight ago, was wasted against Cardiff. But this is the Premier League, and there will be plenty more surprises.

Meanwhile, the Gunners face Cardiff City (and that's no guaranteed of points, considering how good the Welsh side have been at home), while Liverpool faces Hull City, Manchester City plays Swansea and Chelsea faces high-flying Southampton.

Follow Andrew on Twitter @_andrewbishara

Lakaku heads home Everton's third goal in the Merseyside Derby classic

ENGLAND EPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Arsenal	12	9	1	2	24	10	+14	28	W L W W W
2 Liverpool	12	7	3	2	24	13	+11	24	D W L W D
3 Chelsea	12	7	3	2	21	10	+11	24	W D L W W
4 Manchester City	12	7	1	4	34	12	+22	22	W L W L W
5 Southampton	12	6	4	2	15	7	+8	22	L W D W D
6 Manchester United	12	6	3	3	20	15	+5	21	D W W W D
7 Everton	12	5	6	1	17	13	+4	21	D D D W W
8 Newcastle United	12	6	2	4	17	17	+0	20	W W W L D
9 Tottenham Hotspur	12	6	2	4	9	12	-3	20	L L D W W
10 Swansea City	12	4	3	5	17	16	+1	15	W D L D W
11 West Bromwich ...	12	3	6	3	14	14	+0	15	D D W L D
12 Aston Villa	12	4	3	5	13	14	-1	15	D W D L L
13 Hull City	12	4	2	6	9	15	-6	14	L L W L L
14 Stoke City	12	3	4	5	12	14	-2	13	W D D L D
15 Cardiff City	12	3	4	5	11	17	-6	13	D L W D L
16 Norwich City	12	3	2	7	10	23	-13	11	L W L D L
17 West Ham United	12	2	4	6	9	14	-5	10	L L D D L
18 Fulham	12	3	1	8	11	21	-10	10	L L L L W
19 Crystal Palace	12	2	1	9	7	21	-14	7	W D L L L
20 Sunderland	12	2	1	9	8	24	-16	7	L W L W L

Latest Results	Next Match
Everton 3 - 3 Liverpool	Aston Villa v Sunderland
Fulham 1 - 2 Swansea City	Cardiff City v Arsenal
Hull City 0 - 1 Crystal Palace	Everton v Stoke City
Newcastle 2 - 1 Norwich City	Norwich City v Crystal Palace
Stoke City 2 - 0 Sunderland	West Ham United v Fulham
Arsenal 2 - 0 Southampton	Newcastle v WBA
West Ham United 0 - 3 Chelsea	Tottenham v Man Utd
Man City 6 - 0 Tottenham	Hull City v Liverpool
Cardiff City 2 - 2 Man Utd	Chelsea v Southampton
WBA 2 - 2 Aston Villa	Man City v Swansea City

One To Watch This Weekend...

Crystal Palace gave new boss Tony Pulis a reason to smile before his first game with a 1-0 win over Hull City last time out. Will it continue its resurgence against free-falling Norwich City?

Pain At The Lane

London Eye

Robert Davis

After succumbing to the bulldozer effect that Manchester City currently hold over clubs travelling to the Etihad Stadium, major questions have been asked over André Villas-Boas' reign at Tottenham Hotspur. Big money spent, big losses endured and one particularly big player leaving aside, is the Portuguese tactician guiding Spurs in the right direction, or does the scepticism currently surrounding White Hart Lane have some validation?

The problem for the former Chelsea coach is that he's never really been accepted into the hearts of the Spurs faithful like Harry Redknapp was before him. 'Arry's gung-ho approach and 'you-attack we-attack' mentality is what the white half of North London expect and feed from. Compare that to Villas-Boas' meticulous tactical preparation and slow build up play and the methodology just doesn't seem to sit right with the fans. They've come to watch Transformers and instead they've got Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy.

That's not to say Tottenham supporters are uneducated neanderthals when it comes to a more cultured approach to the game, it's just that Villas-Boas' ideologies don't fit into what has become known as the 'Spurs way' over the years; goals, exciting football and then more goals. Every club has a certain style that their own fans and others have become accustomed to. When you think of Arsenal, elegant passing springs to mind, or hard-working when you think of Everton. Tottenham are struggling to re-establish their identity under the Europa League winner and the fans are becoming impatient.

Whilst Villas-Boas appears to be changing the style of play at White Hart Lane, it appears chairman Daniel Levy has shown his intentions of competing at the top level and spent more than he ever has on new players since running the club.

Along with the services of newly acquired technical director Franco Baldini, Spurs were the third biggest spenders in Europe over the Summer behind only Real Madrid and AS Monaco. Despite this, they still managed to record a net profit of just over £3million thanks largely to the sale of Gareth Bale. In true Levy style, his astute business within the market has been beneficial for the club. These are the kind of dealings which have seen him pull in a financial gain on transfers for the past three seasons in a row.

Some of the signings though have so far been expensive flops. Sure it's early in the season and players do need time to acclimatise to the pace of the English game, but when you're spending £25million and upwards on one player, you expect that player to have made at least some sort of impact on the side. Step forward Roberto Soldado and Erik Lamela.

Both arriving for an estimated £29million and £30million respectively, the two biggest signings in Tottenham's history haven't lived up to expectations. But the argument is double edged. How can a striker like Soldado expect to score (from open play) in the system that Villas-Boas implements? Not enough balls are being put into the box and the Spain international is constantly finding himself aimlessly wandering outside the area looking for the ball. In the 2012/2013 season with previous club Valencia, the striker was the focal point of all attacks and scored 24 goals, all coming from inside the area. The 28-year-old is simply not being played to his strengths.

Argentinian winger Lamela is having an even tougher time in London and along with being Spurs record signing, he is also the scapegoat and boo-boy of many of their poor performances. His first league start of the year came at the Etihad stadium and to say he struggled to make an impact on the game would be too kind. But in fairness to the 21-year-old, no one in a white shirt covered themselves in glory on the day. The Argentina international is still young though and has time on his side to impress.

Even being mentioned as top four finishers is extraordinary for Tottenham when compared to their closest rivals in the league. Arsenal and Manchester United have titles and a big team mentality whilst Chelsea and Pellegrini's City have deeper pockets than any others in the same position. The problem that comes with being held in such high esteem by pundits and experts is a sense of expectation. Fans want to see the smaller teams outplayed and demolished whilst also wanting to see the bigger teams given a lesson in what it is to play in big game matches. 2-0 wins against Norwich City and Aston Villa are as good as it gets so far in the league this season along with a well earned 1-1 draw at home to Chelsea. The results that stick out more are the demoralising 3-0 loss to West Ham United and the recent 6-0 demolition at the hands of Manchester City.

Villas-Boas' fortunes in the Europa League this season have been a stark difference to that of his sides form in the league, thus proving the kind of mentality the tactician wants to implement at the club. European football and more specifically the Champions League is where the money is. Succeed there and essentially watch the pounds roll in and the credibility on a global scale rise.

It's all up to whether the Spurs fans, and more importantly Levy, can afford to be patient with the Villa-Boas revolution.

AVB can't bear to watch as hs team are humbled in a 6-0 defeat to Manchester City

Serie A

Luca Cetta

Milan crisis deepens

Throughout Massimiliano Allegri's reign, Milan fans have accepted their side will have a slow start to the season, only to turn things around.

That may still happen this season. But time is running out. True to the script, Allegri's side have opened 2013-14 terribly to sit just four points above the relegation zone. In comparison, promoted Verona are eight points above, while Sassuolo – Serie A debutants – are one point behind.

None of this is new. Allegri's coaching career has been fraught with slow starts. Only once has his team picked up more than seven points in the opening four games. In Allegri's first Rossoneri campaign they won just once in that timeframe. In 2011-12 it was one win in five. Last term, five losses in the opening eight games. But each time they fought back - finishing first, second and then third.

The pressure on Allegri is immense. The feeling is the axe is dangling above his head, especially given qualification for the Champions League already looks unattainable. But then, who would come in? And is it really all the Coach's fault?

AC Milan's under-fire manager Massimiliano Allegri

This is probably the worst squad of the Silvio Berlusconi era. Allegri did send Andrea Pirlo away, but aside from that was not helped by economically-driven sales such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Thiago Silva, nor the steady stream of retirements of Milan stalwarts.

It was not he who made their last summer signing in a position not entirely necessary – striker Alessandro Matri – for €11m. His return to Milan has yielded one goal thus far. Injuries to Stephan El Shaarawy and Mattia De Sciglio have not helped. Nor multi-match bans for Philippe Mexes and Mario Balotelli.

Four matches without a win was how the Rossoneri walked into their showdown with Genoa, a side much improved since Gian Piero Gasperini's arrival and one sitting seventh. Allegri – out of contract at the end of the season - was bullish in the pre-match Press Conference, declaring he doesn't fear the sack. Three points were of greater priority. "It's a fundamental game against Genoa. We are obliged to win and we cannot afford to make any mistakes."

Mexes was forced to pull out during the warm-up due to an eye injury, the start of a forgettable night at the San Siro.

Things began well. Four minutes in Kaka sprung the offside trap to score. However, Genoa were level moments later when Sime Vrsaljko was felled inside the penalty area. Alberto Gilardino dispatched the spot-kick against his former club.

Milan peppered the Grifoni goal for no reward. They were handed a golden opportunity 10 minutes before half-time when Tomas Manfredini was shown a red card for a foul on Balotelli. The Italian international stepped up to take the resulting penalty, but Rossoblu custodian Mattia Perin became the second man to stop a Balotelli penalty, denying the centrally hit effort.

Despite a host of chances against the 10 men Milan could not find a way through. 1-1 it ended, 'a golden point' declared Gasperini. His Genoa side could leave with their heads held high.

Conversely, Milan players couldn't leave. Around 300 angry fans blocked the players exit at the stadium. They had already unfurled banners and chants voicing their disapproval during the match and refused to let the team depart.

Balotelli tried to get past but was stopped by police. It was left to Kaka and Christian Abbiati to speak to the fans. They promised to give more effort and to change some players attitudes. Kevin Constant was a target. He had posted pictures on Twitter showing him out late the night before the game and was met with a chorus of disapproving comments from irate fans. Constant subsequently deleted his account. After this chat the team were able to leave.

Meanwhile, Allegri defended the performance. "It's only natural there is bitterness that we are without a win in a month. In terms of performance we did much better tonight and conceded practically no chances." Nonetheless, with only three wins in 13 matches, this is Milan's worst start to a season since 1981-82 - when they were relegated to Serie B.

General manager Adriano Galliani admitted things aren't going as planned, but asked fans to stick by the team. "Milan have 115 years of history and a 116th will begin too. Bad years happen to everyone, let's not make a drama out of it. Look at the Champions League trophies we won and the Finals we played. Even more recently, in the last three seasons we came first, second and third. We must raise our heads up and be proud of this Milan."

It doesn't get any easier for Milan, with tricky upcoming trips to Catania and Livorno, then clashes with Roma and Inter before the Christmas break. That could potentially decide Allegri's future.

Meanwhile, Juventus jumped to first place with a 2-0 win at Livorno. Fernando Llorente netted the opener, before setting up Carlos Tevez for the sealing goal. It proved a fruitful weekend for Juve, the only side in the top eight to gain a victory. Napoli fell to a shock home defeat against Parma, while Roma - in action on Monday - were held to a scoreless draw at home by Cagliari.

ITALY Serie A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Juventus	13	11	1	1	28	10	+18	34	W W W W W
2 Roma	13	10	3	0	26	3	+23	33	D D D W W
3 Napoli	13	9	1	3	24	12	+12	28	L L W W W
4 Internazionale	13	7	5	1	30	13	+17	26	D W W D W
5 Fiorentina	13	7	3	3	24	15	+9	24	L W W L W
6 Hellas Verona	13	7	1	5	22	20	+2	22	L L W W L
7 Genoa	13	5	3	5	14	15	-1	18	D W W W L
8 Lazio	13	4	5	4	17	17	+0	17	D D L D W
9 Parma	13	4	4	5	18	20	-2	16	W D L L W
10 Atalanta	13	5	1	7	14	17	-3	16	L W L D L
11 Udinese	13	5	1	7	12	15	-3	16	W L L W L
12 Torino	13	3	6	4	22	22	+0	15	W L D D L
13 Milan	13	3	5	5	18	20	-2	14	D D L D L
14 Cagliari	13	3	5	5	13	20	-7	14	D W L L L
15 Sassuolo	13	3	4	6	15	28	-13	13	W D W L D
16 Livorno	13	3	3	7	13	20	-7	12	L L W D L
17 Bologna	13	2	5	6	15	25	-10	11	D L D W W
18 Sampdoria	13	2	4	7	14	23	-9	10	D L L L W
19 Chievo	13	2	3	8	8	18	-10	9	W D D L L
20 Catania	13	2	3	8	9	23	-14	9	L W L L D

Latest Results	Next Match
Hellas Verona 0 - 1 Chievo	Parma v Bologna
Milan 1 - 1 Genoa	Genoa v Torino
Napoli 0 - 1 Parma	Catania v Milan
Livorno 0 - 2 Juventus	Atalanta v Roma
Sampdoria 1 - 1 Lazio	Cagliari v Sassuolo
Sassuolo 2 - 0 Atalanta	Chievo v Livorno
Torino 4 - 1 Catania	Inter v Sampdoria
Udinese 1 - 0 Fiorentina	Juventus v Udinese
Bologna 1 - 1 Inter	Fiorentina v Verona
Roma 0 - 0 Cagliari	Lazio v Napoli

One To Watch This Weekend...

Lazio grabbed a last-gasp draw at Sampdoria last Sunday, but the pressure is still on Coach Vladimir Petkovic. They face a tough test this weekend, hosting a Napoli side desperate to keep in touch with the leaders.

Viva Espana

Pepe Lopez

Barca and Atleti Through to Champions League Rd of 16

Despite Barca's shock 2-1 loss away to Ajax Amsterdam in Match Day 5 of the UEFA Champions League, and Atletico Madrid's first draw away to Zenit St Petersburg, both Spanish clubs have advanced to the Round of 16, with 1 Match Day of the league stage still remaining. Atleti have secured 1st place in Group G and will be seeded in the Round of 16 Draw to be conducted on the 16th of December. Barcelona will be playing at home against Celtic of Scotland in the final League Stage Match Day on the 11th of December to secure 1st place of Group H.

Whilst most clubs in Europe would celebrate the achievement of qualifying for the Champions League Round of 16, Barcelona FC players were deeply disappointed with their first loss of the season. Barca Defender Gerard Pique was quoted after the match as saying;

Ronaldo receives an injury scare in Real Madrid's rout of Almeria

"We played a horrible first half. There is no excuse, it was a disaster. What happened in the first half can't happen again. The attitude wasn't right, the whole team know that. Ajax were a lot more intense than us. In the first half they were far better, and you can't give one half away in Europe."

Ajax Amsterdam Coach Frank De Boer was proud of his team's upset but still face an uphill battle to advance to the Round of 16, they travel away to AC Milan in Match Day 6, and only a win will get Ajax into the next round of the Champions League.

"I don't think Barcelona expected this, we have achieved a victory thanks to our fighting spirit and our quality. The first half was fantastic, after that it was unfortunate that we were down to 10 men. I had said that Ajax would be the first team to beat Barcelona with the football we always want to play, which is offensive football."

Barcelona FC Midfielder Xavi Hernandez was quite concerned with the result;

"We hope the defeat does not affect us too badly – it is the first defeat so let's hope it will not have too bad an effect. We have got a home game ahead of us against Celtic and we still have a great chance to finish top of the group. We were missing intensity and unable to play our game. Ajax's high-pressure pressing high up the pitch just didn't give us the chance to bring the ball out under control. They were more intense than us and although we tried to turn it round in the second half, the 2-0 score was just too much and we couldn't do it."

Meanwhile Carlo Ancelotti hailed Real Madrid's "courage and personality" after overcoming Sergio Ramos' red card to beat Galatasaray 4-1 on Wednesday.

The defender was dismissed for the 17th time in his Real career for a 26th-minute foul on Umut Bulut, although the Turkey striker appeared to make the most of minimal contact when through on goal.

Despite that setback, goals from Gareth Bale, Alvaro Arbeloa, Angel di Maria and Isco eclipsed Bulut's first-half equaliser as Real qualified for the knockout stage, setting a new UEFA Champions League record by scoring in 30 consecutive games in the process.

And Ancelotti was content with his side's display.

"The team played very well, especially when we were one man down in the second half," the Italian coach said.

"We played with courage and personality.

"It's true that the first half wasn't very good but we dominated and the game changed after Ramos' red card.

"We need to continue like this and stay consistent. I can't complain, I'm very happy."

SPAIN La Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games (Most recent first)
1 Barcelona	14	13	1	0	42	8	+34	40	W W W W W
2 Atlético Madrid	14	12	1	1	38	9	+29	37	W D W W W
3 Real Madrid	14	11	1	2	40	17	+23	34	W W W W L
4 Villarreal	14	8	3	3	24	13	+11	27	W D W L W
5 Athletic Club	14	8	2	4	22	19	+3	26	W W L D W
6 Real Sociedad	14	5	5	4	23	20	+3	20	W L W D W
7 Getafe	14	6	2	6	17	21	-4	20	L D L W L
8 Sevilla	14	5	4	5	27	26	+1	19	W W L L W
9 Espanyol	14	5	3	6	17	19	-2	18	W L L D L
10 Elche	14	4	5	5	15	18	-3	17	W D L D L
11 Valencia	14	5	2	7	18	23	-5	17	L D W L L
12 Granada	14	5	2	7	11	17	-6	17	L W W L W
13 Levante	14	4	5	5	13	20	-7	17	L L L D W
14 Málaga	14	3	4	7	16	21	-5	13	L L W D L
15 Osasuna	14	4	1	9	11	22	-11	13	W L L W L
16 Celta de Vigo	14	3	3	8	17	22	-5	12	L L W L W
17 Real Valladolid	14	2	6	6	16	21	-5	12	L D L D W
18 Almería	14	3	3	8	15	29	-14	12	L W W W L
19 Rayo Vallecano	14	4	0	10	13	34	-21	12	L W L L L
20 Real Betis	14	2	3	9	12	28	-16	9	L L L D L

Latest Results	Next Match
R Valladolid 0 - 1 Osasuna	Getafe v Levante
Barcelona 4 - 0 Granada	Villarreal v Málaga
R Sociedad 4 - 3 Celta de Vigo	Elche v Atlético Madrid
Almería 0 - 5 Real Madrid	Celta de Vigo v Almería
Atlético Madrid 7 - 0 Getafe	Real Madrid v R Valladolid
Levante 0 - 3 Villarreal	Espanyol v Real Sociedad
R Vallecano 1 - 4 Espanyol	Real Betis v R Vallecano
Elche 2 - 1 Valencia	Granada v Sevilla
Sevilla 4 - 0 Real Betis	Valencia v Osasuna
Málaga 1 - 2 Athletic Club	Athletic Club v Barcelona

One To Watch This Weekend...

Real Sociedad travel to Catalunya to play Espanyol on Sunday at 8am, Australian Eastern Standard Time. This match will be broadcast LIVE on Foxtel Channel FoxSports 1.

Real Madrid will host Valladolid on Sunday, Australian Eastern Standard Time. This match will be delayed broadcast on Foxtel Channel FoxSports 1 at 10am.

Barcelona FC will travel to the Basque Country to play Athletic Bilbao on Monday at 7am, Australian Eastern Standard Time. This match will be broadcast LIVE on Foxtel Channel FoxSports 1.

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CROATIA 1.HNL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Dinamo Zagreb	16	11	3	2	26	9	+17	36	W W W L W
2 Hajduk Split	17	10	5	2	30	13	+17	35	D W D W W
3 Rijeka	15	8	5	2	26	11	+15	29	L W W L D
4 Lokomotiva	16	9	2	5	27	20	+7	29	W L L W L
5 Split	17	7	6	4	18	15	+3	27	D D W W W
6 Istra 1961	16	5	4	7	18	23	-5	19	L D D L W
7 Zadar	17	4	4	9	13	25	-12	16	D L W L L
8 Slaven Koprivnica	17	3	6	8	20	24	-4	15	D L D D W
9 Osijek	17	2	4	11	11	35	-24	10	D D D L L
10 Hrvatski Drago…	16	1	5	10	12	26	-14	8	D L L L L

SCOTLAND SPL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Celtic	13	10	3	0	30	12	+18	33	W W D W D
2 Inverness CT	13	9	1	3	21	11	+10	28	W W W L L
3 Motherwell	14	8	1	5	16	18	-2	25	W L W L W
4 Dundee United	14	6	5	3	25	10	+15	23	W W D W L
5 Aberdeen	14	7	2	5	20	14	+6	23	L L W W W
6 St. Johnstone	14	6	3	5	22	15	+7	21	L W W W L
7 Hibernian	14	4	4	6	9	14	-5	16	D L L L D
8 St. Mirren	13	4	3	6	14	21	-7	15	D W W L W
9 Partick Thistle	14	3	4	7	12	24	-12	13	L L L L W
10 Ross County	13	3	2	8	15	27	-12	11	D L L L W
11 Kilmarnock	14	2	3	9	14	23	-9	9	L L L W W
12 Heart of Midlo…	14	3	3	8	12	21	-9	-3	D W L L L

SERBIA Super Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Partizan	13	8	3	2	25	12	+13	27	W W L D W
2 Crvena Zvezda	13	8	2	3	26	13	+13	26	W W W D W
3 Čukarički	13	6	4	3	14	11	+3	22	D W L L D
4 Radnički Niš	13	5	6	2	15	9	+6	21	L W W D D
5 Jagodina	13	6	3	4	17	12	+5	21	W L W W L
6 Novi Pazar	13	6	3	4	17	14	+3	21	D W W W L
7 Vojvodina	13	5	6	2	16	14	+2	21	L D D W L
8 Spartak Subotica	13	6	2	5	12	17	-5	20	W L W D W
9 Napredak	13	4	4	5	18	15	+3	16	W L L D D
10 OFK Beograd	13	5	1	7	15	21	-6	16	L W W L L
11 Javor Ivanjica	13	3	5	5	14	18	-4	14	D D L W L
12 Voždovac	13	3	4	6	11	15	-4	13	L L L W L
13 Radnički Kragu…	13	3	4	6	13	20	-7	13	D L D D W
14 Sloboda Užice	13	3	4	6	11	18	-7	13	L W L L W
15 Donji Srem	13	2	4	7	13	18	-5	10	W L L L D
16 Rad Beograd	13	3	1	9	6	16	-10	10	L L W L W

GERMANY Bundesliga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Bayern München	12	10	2	0	27	7	+20	32	W W W W D
2 Borussia Dortmund	12	9	1	2	32	11	+21	28	L W W W L
3 Bayer Leverkusen	12	9	1	2	27	14	+13	28	W L W W D
4 Borussia M'gla…	12	7	1	4	28	16	+12	22	W W W L W
5 Wolfsburg	12	7	0	5	18	14	+4	21	W W W W L
6 Schalke 04	12	6	2	4	23	23	+0	20	W W L W W
7 Hertha BSC	12	5	3	4	20	16	+4	18	W L L W D
8 Stuttgart	12	4	4	4	24	21	+3	16	W L D D D
9 Mainz 05	12	5	1	6	17	23	-6	16	W L W L D
10 Werder Bremen	12	4	3	5	13	20	-7	15	L W L D D
11 Hannover 96	12	4	2	6	14	19	-5	14	D L L L D
12 Hoffenheim	12	3	4	5	28	28	+0	13	L L W L D
13 Augsburg	12	4	1	7	13	23	-10	13	L W L L L
14 Hamburger SV	12	3	3	6	26	29	-3	12	L L W D W
15 Eintracht Fran…	12	2	4	6	14	21	-7	10	L L L D D
16 Freiburg	12	1	5	6	13	24	-11	8	L W L D D
17 Eintracht Brau…	12	2	2	8	8	23	-15	8	D W L L W
18 Nürnberg	12	0	7	5	12	25	-13	7	L L D D L

HOLLAND Eredivisie

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Vitesse	14	8	3	3	28	18	+10	27	W W W D W
2 Ajax	14	7	4	3	29	15	+14	25	W W L D D
3 Twente	14	6	6	2	33	14	+19	24	W D D L D
4 AZ	14	7	3	4	25	21	+4	24	D D W W W
5 Groningen	14	6	5	3	28	25	+3	23	D W D D W
6 PEC Zwolle	14	5	6	3	22	14	+8	21	D D D L W
7 Feyenoord	14	6	3	5	27	22	+5	21	L D W L D
8 PSV	14	5	5	4	25	15	+10	20	D L D L L
9 Heerenveen	13	5	4	4	30	26	+4	19	D W L L L
10 NAC Breda	14	5	3	6	24	23	+1	18	L W L W L
11 Roda JC	14	4	6	4	24	30	-6	18	D L D W W
12 Utrecht	14	5	3	6	20	26	-6	18	W L W L W
13 Go Ahead Eagles	13	4	4	5	20	32	-12	16	L W L D W
14 Cambuur	14	4	3	7	13	18	-5	15	W L L W L
15 Heracles	13	4	2	7	16	25	-9	14	L L W D L
16 ADO Den Haag	13	4	1	8	17	30	-13	13	L W L W L
17 RKC Waalwijk	14	3	3	8	19	29	-10	12	W L W D L
18 NEC	14	1	6	7	20	37	-17	9	L L D W D

TURKEY Süper Lig

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Fenerbahçe	12	10	1	1	28	12	+16	31	W W W W W
2 Kasımpaşa	12	8	1	3	26	14	+12	25	D W W W W
3 Beşiktaş	12	7	3	2	21	11	+10	24	W W D D D
4 Galatasaray	12	6	4	2	19	13	+6	22	W L W W W
5 Sivasspor	12	7	1	4	23	15	+8	22	L W W W D
6 Trabzonspor	12	6	2	4	15	12	+3	20	W L W L D
7 Eskişehirspor	12	6	1	5	16	10	+6	19	L W L W W
8 Karabükspor	12	4	4	4	10	11	-1	16	W W D D L
9 Rizespor	12	4	3	5	15	17	-2	15	L L D L D
10 Akhisar Beledi…	12	4	3	5	13	13	+0	15	L L D D L
11 Bursaspor	12	4	3	5	12	15	-3	15	D L L W W
12 Antalyaspor	12	3	5	4	12	13	-1	14	L L D D W
13 Gençlerbirliği	12	4	1	7	12	14	-2	13	L W W W L
14 Konyaspor	12	4	1	7	13	19	-6	13	L W L L D
15 Kayseri Erciye…	12	3	3	6	8	15	-7	12	W W L L L
16 Gaziantepspor	12	3	2	7	14	25	-11	11	W L L L D
17 Kayserispor	12	2	3	7	11	21	-10	9	W L D L L

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Burnley	16	10	5	1	28	11	+17	35	D D D W W
2 Leicester City	16	11	2	3	26	16	+10	35	W L W W W
3 Queens Park Ra…	16	10	5	1	18	8	+10	35	W D W D L
4 Blackpool	16	7	7	2	20	15	+5	28	D L W D W
5 Nottingham Forest	16	7	6	3	24	17	+7	27	D W L L D
6 Leeds United	16	8	2	6	24	19	+5	26	W W W L W
7 Derby County	16	7	4	5	30	23	+7	25	W W L D W
8 Reading	16	6	7	3	23	18	+5	25	D D L D W
9 Brighton & Hov…	16	6	6	4	19	14	+5	24	W W W D D
10 Watford	16	6	5	5	27	21	+6	23	L D L D L
11 Wigan Athletic	15	6	4	5	17	13	+4	22	L W W D D
12 Ipswich Town	16	5	5	6	24	22	+2	20	L W D D L
13 Huddersfield Town	16	5	5	6	21	20	+1	20	W L L W L
14 Blackburn Rovers	16	5	5	6	20	19	+1	20	D L W D L
15 Bolton Wanderers	16	4	7	5	17	21	-4	19	W W W D D
16 AFC Bournemouth	16	5	3	8	21	31	-10	18	L D L L D
17 Charlton Athletic	16	4	5	7	14	19	-5	17	W L L W D
18 Millwall	16	4	5	7	19	31	-12	17	W L D D D
19 Middlesbrough	16	3	7	6	26	26	+0	16	L D L W L
20 Doncaster Rovers	16	4	4	8	14	26	-12	16	L W D L L
21 Birmingham City	16	4	3	9	18	23	-5	15	D W L D L
22 Sheffield Wedn…	15	1	8	6	18	25	-7	11	L L W D D
23 Barnsley	16	2	5	9	16	32	-16	11	L D D D W
24 Yeovil Town	16	2	3	11	10	24	-14	9	L L L W D

LEAGUE ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Wolverhampton …	18	13	4	1	32	10	+22	43	W D W D W
2 Leyton Orient	18	13	3	2	41	16	+25	42	D W L W W
3 Preston North End	18	9	7	2	27	17	+10	34	W D W D W
4 Brentford	18	10	4	4	28	19	+9	34	W D W W W
5 Peterborough U…	18	10	2	6	27	18	+9	32	L L L L L
6 Bradford City	18	7	7	4	31	20	+11	28	D W D D L
7 Rotherham United	18	7	7	4	27	22	+5	28	W D W D L
8 Swindon Town	18	8	3	7	32	24	+8	27	D L W W L
9 Walsall	18	7	6	5	20	16	+4	27	D D W L L
10 Port Vale	18	8	2	8	26	28	-2	26	L W W L W
11 Milton Keynes Dons	17	6	4	7	27	26	+1	22	L L W L L
12 Crawley Town	18	5	7	6	19	23	-4	22	D D D L L
13 Coventry City	18	9	4	5	38	33	+5	21	L L D W W
14 Oldham Athletic	17	6	3	8	22	24	-2	21	W W D L W
15 Colchester United	18	4	9	5	20	24	-4	21	W D L D W
16 Gillingham	18	6	3	9	23	28	-5	21	W L W W L
17 Carlisle United	18	5	6	7	18	29	-11	21	W D D D L
18 Shrewsbury Town	18	4	7	7	18	21	-3	19	L W L W L
19 Stevenage	18	5	2	11	18	29	-11	17	L W L L W
20 Tranmere Rovers	18	4	5	9	21	33	-12	17	L W D D W
21 Sheffield United	18	4	4	10	16	26	-10	16	D W L L W
22 Bristol City	18	2	9	7	26	31	-5	15	D L D W D
23 Crewe Alexandra	18	3	4	11	14	40	-26	13	L L L D L
24 Notts County	18	3	2	13	18	32	-14	11	D L L L W

LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Oxford United	18	9	6	3	29	14	+15	33	D W W L W
2 Chesterfield	18	9	6	3	25	14	+11	33	D W W D D
3 Southend United	18	10	2	6	24	16	+8	32	W W W W L
4 Rochdale	18	10	2	6	28	25	+3	32	L W W L L
5 Fleetwood Town	18	10	1	7	31	23	+8	31	L W L W W
6 Scunthorpe United	18	8	6	4	23	20	+3	30	W W L D L
7 Burton Albion	18	9	3	6	22	20	+2	30	W W L L W
8 Newport County	18	7	7	4	24	19	+5	28	D D W L W
9 Dagenham & Red…	18	7	6	5	26	23	+3	27	D L W L W
10 AFC Wimbledon	18	7	5	6	23	21	+2	26	D D W W L
11 Morecambe	18	7	5	6	23	25	-2	26	D L L W L
12 Exeter City	18	7	4	7	22	23	-1	25	D L L L L
13 Hartlepool United	18	7	3	8	21	20	+1	24	L W L W L
14 Plymouth Argyle	18	6	5	7	14	18	-4	23	D W D W W
15 Wycombe Wand	17	6	4	7	22	22	+0	22	D L L D L
16 Cheltenham Town	18	5	7	6	23	28	-5	22	D D W D D
17 Mansfield Town	18	5	6	7	20	24	-4	21	L L L L L
18 Portsmouth	17	5	5	7	25	30	-5	20	L L L W D
19 Accrington Stanley	18	5	5	8	18	23	-5	20	W W W D W
20 Bury	18	4	6	8	19	22	-3	18	W D D L W
21 York City	18	4	6	8	23	27	-4	18	D L D D W
22 Bristol Rovers	18	3	7	8	13	20	-7	16	D L D W D
23 Torquay United	18	3	6	9	19	30	-11	15	D L L W D
24 Northampton Town	18	3	5	10	14	24	-10	14	D L W L D

Greece Super League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Olympiakos Piraeus	12	11	1	0	38	4	+34	34	W W W W W
2 PAOK	12	9	1	2	23	12	+11	28	W L W W W
3 Atromitos	12	6	3	3	18	10	+8	21	W L D W W
4 Panathinaikos	12	6	2	4	16	12	+4	20	W W L W L
5 Kalloni	12	6	0	6	14	17	-3	18	W W W L L
6 Asteras Tripolis	12	4	6	2	18	14	+4	18	W D D W L
7 Xanthi	12	5	2	5	17	19	-2	17	W D L L W
8 Panaitolikos	12	4	5	3	14	10	+4	17	L W D W D
9 PAS Giannina	12	5	2	5	14	15	-1	17	L W W D L
10 Ergotelis	12	4	5	3	14	11	+3	17	L W L L D
11 Panionios	12	4	3	5	14	17	-3	15	L W L W W
12 Levadiakos	12	4	2	6	12	21	-9	14	W L W L L
13 Panthrakikos	12	3	5	4	13	19	-6	14	L L D L W
14 OFI	12	2	6	4	9	14	-5	12	W L W L D
15 Platanias	12	2	5	5	11	16	-5	11	L W L W L
16 Apollon Smirnis	12	2	2	8	11	21	-10	8	L L D L D
17 Aris	12	2	2	8	7	19	-12	8	L L L L W
18 Veria	12	1	4	7	8	20	-12	7	L L D D L

France Ligue 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 PSG	14	10	4	0	30	8	+22	34	W W W D W
2 Lille	14	9	3	2	16	4	+12	30	W D W W W
3 Monaco	14	8	5	1	22	11	+11	29	W D L W D
4 Olympique Mars…	14	7	3	4	21	14	+7	24	W W D L L
5 Nantes	14	7	2	5	19	11	+8	23	L W D L W
6 Saint-Étienne	14	6	3	5	19	17	+2	21	W L D D W
7 Olympique Lyonnais	14	5	4	5	20	17	+3	19	D W W L D
8 Guingamp	14	5	4	5	17	15	+2	19	D D L W W
9 Reims	14	4	7	3	15	15	+0	19	L D W W L
10 Bastia	14	5	4	5	16	20	-4	19	D W L W L
11 Rennes	14	4	6	4	17	14	+3	18	D L D W D
12 Bordeaux	14	4	6	4	17	18	-1	18	D L W W D
13 Nice	14	5	2	7	14	17	-3	17	L L L L W
14 Toulouse	14	4	4	6	11	20	-9	16	L D L L W
15 Evian TG	14	4	4	6	15	25	-10	16	L D W W L
16 Montpellier	14	2	9	3	17	18	-1	15	D D D L L
17 Lorient	14	4	2	8	15	23	-8	14	W D L W L
18 Valenciennes	14	2	4	8	12	21	-9	10	D D W L D
19 Ajaccio	14	1	5	8	10	22	-12	8	L D L L L
20 Sochaux	14	1	5	8	12	25	-13	8	D L D L D

Portugal Premeira Liga

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games Most recent first
1 Porto	10	7	3	0	20	7	+13	24	D D W W W
2 Sporting CP	10	7	2	1	24	9	+15	23	W W L W W
3 Benfica	10	7	2	1	17	7	+10	23	W W W W D
4 Estoril	10	5	2	3	18	14	+4	17	W L W L W
5 Gil Vicente	10	5	2	3	13	11	+2	17	L W W W D
6 Nacional	10	4	3	3	13	10	+3	15	D D L W W
7 Vitória Guimarães	10	4	1	5	9	10	-1	13	L L W W L
8 Rio Ave	10	4	1	5	8	9	-1	13	L W L W L
9 Sporting Braga	10	4	0	6	9	12	-3	12	L L L L L
10 Vitória Setúbal	10	3	3	4	13	17	-4	12	W W D L D
11 Académica	10	3	2	5	5	13	-8	11	W L W L D
12 Marítimo	10	3	1	6	16	21	-5	10	W L L L L
13 Belenenses	10	2	3	5	9	13	-4	9	L D D W D
14 Olhanense	10	2	3	5	5	11	-6	9	L D W L L
15 Paços de Ferreira	10	2	2	6	9	16	-7	8	W D L L W
16 Arouca	10	2	2	6	5	13	-8	8	L D L L D

One Game At A Time

France

Olympique Mars… v Montpellier
Monaco v Rennes
Guingamp v Nantes
Lorient v Nice
Saint-Étienne v Reims
Toulouse v Sochaux
Valenciennes v Lille
Bordeaux v Ajaccio
Bastia v Evian TG
PSG v Olympique Lyonnais

Germany

Wolfsburg v Hamburger SV
Bayern München v Eintracht Brau
Bayer Leverkusen v Nürnberg
Hoffenheim v Werder Bremen
Mainz 05 v Borussia Dortmund
Hertha BSC v Augsburg
Schalke 04 v Stuttgart
Hannover 96 v Eintracht Fran
Borussia M'gla… v Freiburg

Croatia

Osijek v Hrvatski Drago…
Zadar v Istra 1961
Split v Lokomotiva
Rijeka v Slaven Koprivnica
Dinamo Zagreb v Hajduk Split
Rijeka v Hrvatski Drago

Serbia

Radnički Kragu… v Novi Pazar
OFK Beograd v Crvena Zvezda
Javor Ivanjica v Jagodina
Radnički Niš v Čukarički
Partizan v Spartak Subotica
Sloboda Užice v Donji Srem
Vojvodina v Napredak
Rad Beograd v Voždovac

English Championship

Nottingham Forest v Reading
AFC Bournemouth v Brighton & Hov…
Blackburn Rovers v Leeds United
Huddersfield Town v Burnley
Middlesbrough v Bolton Wanderers
Charlton Athletic v Ipswich Town
Doncaster Rovers v Queens Park Ra…
Watford v Yeovil Town
Barnsley v Birmingham City
Blackpool v Sheffield Wedn…
Leicester City v Millwall
Wigan Athletic v Derby County

English League One

Tranmere Rovers v Colchester United
Crewe Alexandra v Crawley Town
Leyton Orient v Sheffield United
Rotherham United v Gillingham
Peterborough U… v Wolverhampton
Milton Keynes Dons v Coventry City
Walsall v Port Vale
Stevenage v Shrewsbury Town
Notts County v Brentford
Preston North End v Bristol City
Swindon Town v Carlisle United
Oldham Athletic v Bradford City

English League Two

Mansfield Town v Morecambe
York City v Rochdale
Bristol Rovers v FC Wimbledon
Southend United vCheltenham Town
Dagenham & Red… v Wycombe Wanderers
Fleetwood Town v Oxford United
Scunthorpe United v Torquay United
Northampton Town v Accrington Stanley
Exeter City v Bury
Hartlepool United v Portsmouth
Plymouth Argyle v Burton Albion

Scotland

Motherwell v Celtic
Dundee United v Heart of Midlo…
Hibernian v Partick Thistle
Ross County v Kilmarnock
St. Johnstone v Aberdeen
St. Mirren v Inverness CT

Greece

Asteras Tripolis v Panaitolikos
Platanias v Atromitos
Apollon Smirnis v Panathinaikos
Aris v Panthrakikos
Panionios v Xanthi
Veria v Levadiakos
OFI v Kalloni
Olympiakos Piraeus v Ergotelis
PAS Giannina v PAOK

Turkey

Sivasspor v Antalyaspor
Elazığspor v Bursaspor
Kayserispor v Akhisar Beledi…
Gençlerbirliği v Gaziantepspor
Fenerbahçe v Beşiktaş
Trabzonspor v Kayseri Erciye…
Eskişehirspor v Karabükspor
Kasımpaşa v Galatasaray
Konyaspor v Rizespor

Holland

Roda JC v Twente
PEC Zwolle v RKC Waalwijk
Heerenveen v Go Ahead Eagles
NAC Breda v Groningen
Heracles v Utrecht
ADO Den Haag v Ajax
Feyenoord v PSV
Vitesse v Cambuur
NEC v AZ

Portugal

Sporting Braga v Olhanense
Académica v Porto
Arouca v Marítimo
Belenenses v Gil Vicente
Nacional v Vitória Setúbal
Rio Ave v Benfica
Sporting CP v Paços de Ferreira
Estoril v Vitória Guimarães

European Results

THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Doncaster Rovers 2 - 1 Yeovil Town
Sheffield Wedn… 1 - 2 Huddersfield Town
Millwall 1 - 0 Barnsley
Blackburn Rovers 0 - 0 Reading
Ipswich Town 1 - 2 Leicester City
AFC Bournemouth 0 - 1 Derby County
Queens Park Ra… 1 - 0 Charlton Athletic
Watford 0 - 1 Bolton Wanderers
Leeds United 2 - 1 Middlesbrough
Wigan Athletic 0 - 1 Brighton & Hov…
Birmingham City 1 - 1 Blackpool
Nottingham Forest 1 - 1 Burnley
Charlton Athletic 2-0 Doncaster Rovers

ENGLISH LEAGUE ONE

league one
Gillingham 3 - 2 Stevenage
Bristol City 2 - 2 Leyton Orient
Colchester United 3 - 1 Milton Keynes Dons
Crawley Town 0 - 0 Swindon Town
Coventry City 0 - 3 Rotherham United
Sheffield United 1 - 1 Walsall
Bradford City 1 - 1 Notts County
Shrewsbury Town 1 - 2 Oldham Athletic
Brentford 3 - 2 Peterborough U…
Wolverhampton … 2 - 0 Tranmere Rovers
Carlisle United 2 - 1 Crewe Alexandra
Port Vale 0 - 2 Preston North End

ENGLISH LEAGUE TWO

Torquay United 1 - 1 Plymouth Argyle
Burton Albion 1 - 0 Mansfield Town
Chesterfield 0 - 0 Northampton Town
Rochdale 0 - 4 Scunthorpe United
AFC Wimbledon 1 - 1 Dagenham & Red…
Wycombe Wanderers 1 - 1 Exeter City
Cheltenham Town 0 - 0 Bristol Rovers
Accrington Stanley 2 - 0 Fleetwood Town
Morecambe 0 - 0 York City
Bury 1 - 0 Hartlepool United
Oxford United 0 - 0 Newport County
Portsmouth 1 - 2 Southend United

CROATIA

croatia
Zadar 0 - 2 Lokomotiva
Osijek 0 - 0 Split
Hajduk Split 2 - 0 Istra 1961
Dinamo Zagreb 1 - 0 Slaven Koprivnica
Slaven Koprivnica 1 - 1 Zadar
Istra 1961 PSTP Dinamo Zagreb
Lokomotiva PSTP Rijeka
Hrvatski Drago… 2 - 2 Split
Hajduk Split 1 - 1 Osijek

FRANCE

france
Ajaccio 1 - 3 Olympique Mars…
Reims 0 - 3 PSG
Evian TG 0 - 4 Lorient
Olympique Lyonnais 1 - 1 Valenciennes
Montpellier 1 - 1 Guingamp
Rennes 1 - 1 Bordeaux
Sochaux 1 - 1 Bastia
Lille 1 - 0 Toulouse
Nice 0 - 1 Saint-Étienne
Nantes 0 - 1 Monaco

GERMANY

Stuttgart 0 - 2 Borussia M'gla…
Nürnberg 1 - 1 Wolfsburg
Augsburg 2 - 0 Hoffenheim
Eintracht Brau… 0 - 1 Freiburg
Eintracht Fran… 3 - 3 Schalke 04
Hertha BSC 0 - 1 Bayer Leverkusen
Borussia Dortmund 0 - 3 Bayern München
Hamburger SV 3 - 1 Hannover 96
Werder Bremen 2 - 3 Mainz 05

GREECE

Apollon Smirnis 0 - 1 OFI
Atromitos 1 - 0 Veria
Panthrakikos 1 - 4 Olympiakos Piraeus
Panathinaikos 3 - 1 PAS Giannina
Ergotelis 0 - 1 Asteras Tripolis
Xanthi 3 - 1 Panaitolikos
Kalloni 1 - 0 Platanias
PAOK 3 - 1 Aris
Levadiakos 2 - 0 Panionios

HOLLAND

PSV 1 - 1 Heerenveen
Cambuur 2 - 1 NEC
AZ 2 - 2 Roda JC
Ajax 3 - 0 Heracles
RKC Waalwijk 1 - 0 Feyenoord
Utrecht 3 - 0 ADO Den Haag
Go Ahead Eagles 0 - 3 Vitesse
Groningen 0 - 0 PEC Zwolle
Twente 5 - 2 NAC Breda

PORTUGAL

Sporting Braga 0 - 1 Rio Ave
Benfica 1 - 0 Sporting Braga
Porto 1 - 1 Nacional
Rio Ave 0 - 2 Estoril
Vitória Setúbal 1 - 0 Arouca
Marítimo 3 - 2 Gil Vicente
Paços de Ferreira 1 - 0 Belenenses
Vitória Guimarães 0 - 1 Sporting CP
Olhanense 0 - 1 Académica

SCOTLAND

St. Mirren 0 - 0 Hibernian
Celtic 3 - 1 Aberdeen
Dundee United 4 - 1 Partick Thistle
Heart of Midlo… 2 - 2 Ross County
Inverness CT 1 - 0 St. Johnstone
Kilmarnock 0 - 2 Motherwell

SERBIA

Javor Ivanjica 1 - 1 Radnički Kragu…
Napredak 3 - 0 OFK Beograd
Donji Srem 2 - 0 Rad Beograd
Spartak Subotica 1 - 0 Radnički Niš
Jagodina 3 - 0 Vojvodina
Crvena Zvezda 4 - 1 Sloboda Užice
Čukarički 1 - 1 Novi Pazar
Voždovac 0 - 1 Partizan

TURKEY

Rizespor 0 - 2 Kayserispor
Bursaspor 1 - 1 Kasımpaşa
Galatasaray 2 - 1 Sivasspor
Kayseri Erciye… 1 - 0 Gençlerbirliği
Gaziantepspor 3 - 1 Elazığspor
Trabzonspor 1 - 0 Eskişehirspor
Antalyaspor 1 - 2 Fenerbahçe
Beşiktaş 3 - 1 Konyaspor
Akhisar Beledi… 0 - 1 Karabükspor

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